

Friday June 7 1996

Algeria	1.00	Denmark	1.00
Andorra	1.00	Finland	1.00
Argentina	1.00	France	1.00
Australia	1.00	Germany	1.00
Austria	1.00	Greece	1.00
Belgium	1.00	Hong Kong	1.00
Canada	1.00	India	1.00
Chile	1.00	Indonesia	1.00
China	1.00	Italy	1.00
Colombia	1.00	Japan	1.00
Czechia	1.00	Korea	1.00
Denmark	1.00	Malaysia	1.00
Egypt	1.00	Mexico	1.00
Finland	1.00	Norway	1.00
France	1.00	Poland	1.00
Germany	1.00	Portugal	1.00
Greece	1.00	Romania	1.00
Hong Kong	1.00	Russia	1.00
India	1.00	Saudi Arabia	1.00
Indonesia	1.00	Slovakia	1.00
Italy	1.00	Slovenia	1.00
Japan	1.00	Spain	1.00
Korea	1.00	Sweden	1.00
Malaysia	1.00	Switzerland	1.00
Mexico	1.00	Taiwan	1.00
Norway	1.00	Thailand	1.00
Poland	1.00	Turkey	1.00
Portugal	1.00	USA	1.00
Romania	1.00	South Africa	1.00
Russia	1.00	UK	1.00
Saudi Arabia	1.00	Other	1.00
Slovakia	1.00		
Slovenia	1.00		
Spain	1.00		
Sweden	1.00		
Switzerland	1.00		
Taiwan	1.00		
Thailand	1.00		
Turkey	1.00		
USA	1.00		
South Africa	1.00		
UK	1.00		
Other	1.00		

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

48,573

Arts, books and culture

Michael Billington on a war of words

Charlie Watts on his other band

**Interview**  
Rayson on Jay McInerney

**Can critics kill?**

**Stone age to jazz age**

Plus: the anthems of Euro 96

## Mortgages tumble to 31-year low

Clarke surprises City with rate cut

Larry Elliott, Richard Thomas and Teresa Hunter

**M**ORTGAGE rates fell to their lowest level since the mid-Sixties yesterday after Chancellor Kenneth Clarke ambushed the City with the fourth cut in base rates in six months.

Despite Bank of England misgivings, Mr Clarke took advantage of the recession in manufacturing and the recent surge in the pound to trim borrowing costs by a quarter-point to 5.75 per cent. The City had expected rates to remain unchanged.

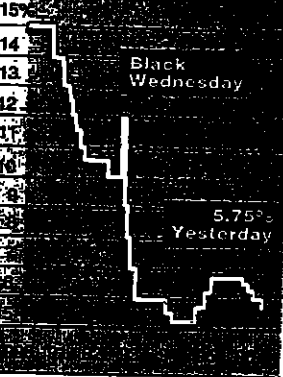
The Chancellor brushed aside allegations that he was trying to stoke up economic growth in the run-up to a general election, insisting that he was on course to hit the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target.

Within hours of yesterday morning's move, Britain's biggest building society, the Halifax, dropped mortgage rates to below 7 per cent in an attempt to maintain the recent momentum in the housing market. Its main rival, the Abbey National, was forced to follow suit, despite originally arguing against a reduction.

The monthly cost of a typical £50,000 Halifax repayment loan will be cut by £7.44 as rates slide from 7.25 per cent to 6.99 per cent, their fourth fall this year and the lowest for 31 years, although base rates went as low as 5 per cent in 1994.

The new monthly cost of £265 will be less than half the 1990 peak, raising hopes among Conservative back-

Base rates



Boom or bust?

Why it's doing well

Real incomes are rising  
House prices are rising  
Consumers are spending more  
Unemployment is falling

Why it's doing badly

Manufacturing is in recession  
Construction is in recession  
Exports are struggling  
Investment is poor

Morgan Grenfell said: "The cut may have been determined more by political considerations than economic judgment".

Alex Garrard, UK economist at Swiss investment bank UBS, said that with the Chancellor's ability to hand out large tax cuts in the Budget limited by the poor state of the Government's finances, he was being forced to rely on cheaper borrowing to boost disposable income.

Halifax general manager David Gilchrist said the society had cut rates with the housing market in mind. "Although house prices have risen recently, the numbers of transactions are still very weak, with those in the first three months of the year lower than last year, which we all know turned out to be very disappointing".

The Abbey National reduced its home loan costs by 0.25 per cent to 7.04 per cent for loans up to £50,000, while warning that it may not be sustained.

Mortgage rates at the Nationwide, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester are under review, although the much smaller Northern Rock has followed the Halifax.

Abbey National chief economist Margaret Schwarz said: "We are concerned that if the markets view this as simple electioneering then interest rates will have to rise in the long term - not good for homebuyers in the end."

"We are very uncertain how long this cut can be sustained, and are also concerned about savers, who are already complaining about their low returns."

Economy does the splits and Notebook, page 11

benchers that the recovery in the housing market, combined with brisker High Street sales, will show itself in the next few weeks.

The Confederation of British Industry, while welcoming the impact of the cut on industry, reported yesterday that retailers and car showrooms were already enjoying buoyant trading conditions. Spending in May on items associated with a healthy housing market - including carpets, furniture and DIY - was at its highest level since 1988, the confederation said.

But the Chancellor emphasised that the economy as a whole was still sluggish and that with cost pressures weakening, a cut in rates was "sensible".

However, there were clear signs last night that Mr Clarke is again at odds with Edie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, over base rates.

Less than a month ago the bank said there was no case for a further reduction in borrowing costs, and it has seen

no reason to change its mind. The decision was taken at the monthly meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor.

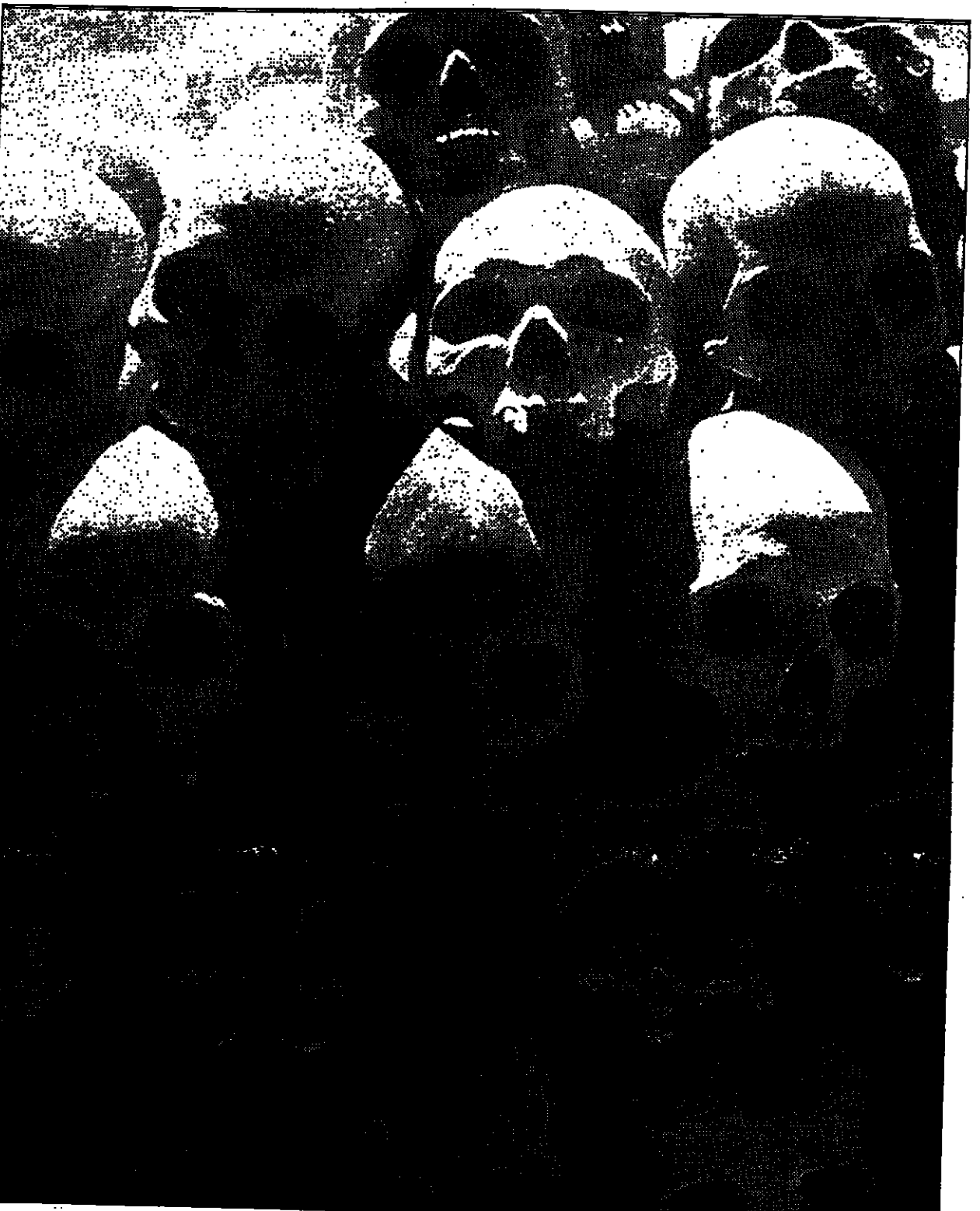
Labour claimed the cut reflected the Government's failure to maintain Britain's manufacturing base. Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown said: "The interest rate cut today comes not because the economy is strong, but because it is weak. The Chancellor has cut rates because growth and business investments are depressed and manufacturing is now technically in recession."

Westminster sources played down talk of an early election, stressing that the size of the Government's opinion poll deficit with Labour remained huge.

But with Mr Clarke and his Treasury team gathering at his country residence today to discuss the November Budget, some City analysts said the decision had the whiff of political expediency about it.

James Barty, chief UK economist with Deutsche

Pol Pot, the master of Cambodia's killing fields, is reported dead



Victims of Pol Pot, who killed at least 1 million Cambodians and probably many more

PHOTOGRAPH BY LEON SCHAEDEBERG

'This will end one of the most terrible tragedies of our history'

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

**P**OL POT, the ruthless guiding spirit in one of the century's most brutal regimes, is seriously ill and may already be dead according to a flurry of reports from Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh, and the Thai-Cambodian border.

Pot, who came to personify a reign of terror that killed at least 1 million Cambodians and probably many more, suffered an attack of malaria and is dying, according to intelligence released yesterday by the Cambodian interior and defence ministries.

Although the government in Phnom Penh said it could not confirm reports of his death it would, if true, be good news for Cambodia. The head of state, King Norodom Sihanouk, predicted that the Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement might fragment, and said: "This will then be the end of one of the most terrible tragedies of our history."

The reports, based on accounts of government agents and villagers living near Khmer Rouge strongholds along the border with Thailand, echoed those from Beijing in recent days.

But in a chance encounter with a Thai reporter working for the French news agency AFP near the border town of Aranyaprathet, a group of



Khmer Rouge guerrillas said yesterday that Pol Pot had died on Tuesday.

The group's leader, identified by the reporter as the deputy commander of the guerrillas' 390th division, said they were on their way to Pol Pot's funeral in the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Phnom Malai.

Even so, it could emerge that Pot, aged 68, is still in good health. The shadowy Khmer Rouge leader, who has haunted the Thai-Cambodian border for most of the past 18 years since he was driven out by Vietnamese troops, has been reported dead before.

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Leader comment, page 8

## Portillo mass band beats cavalry

Michael White

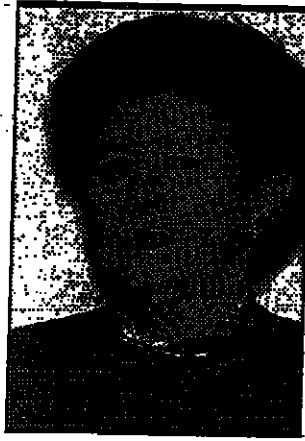
**T**HE Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, beat a tactical retreat in the face of allegations yesterday that a drinks party he held in his Whitehall office overlooking Horseguards Parade was so noisy that it drowned out the massed bands of the Household Cavalry. The party was so noisy that police were sent to request the revellers to be quieter.

At the time the bands were beating a retreat of their own, in one of the more magnificent spectacles on offer to London tourists in the summer months. Scotland Yard confounded yesterday that several "complaints" over a "minor incident" had been received.

Whitehall sources were deployed to suggest that any idea that "a few people having drinks could drown out massed bands is ludicrous". But Mr Portillo himself, whose love of parties is one of the ideological advantages he enjoys over John Redwood, did the decent thing. "If this party caused an odd distur-



Michael Portillo... cheers with apology



Princess Margaret... carried on saluting

bance to a single person I am very sorry," he said. Kensington Palace obligingly confirmed that high spirits at the Defence Secretary's open window had not interfered with Princess Margaret's enjoyment of the event, at which she took the salute.

According to some witnesses "loud laughter and raucous chatter" drifted

down on the night air, spoiling the Last Post and the National Anthem. Words like "outrage" and "utterly ruined" were used. "Don't these people have any respect?" said one spectator.

One Tory rightwinger who was present insisted: "It was not a noisy party. Occasionally one or two people did turn around at the back of the stands and I gather someone

did make a phone call. We all quietened down."

Ministerial parties in the government offices overlooking Horseguards Parade are a tradition. Nonetheless trained Portillo-watchers detected a pattern to the incident. Mr Portillo's 10th anniversary as Tory MP for Southgate in 1984 was marked by a constituency party at the Alexander Palace which also aroused controversy.

Despite his current vocal loyalty to John Major - definitely enough to drown out the bands of the Household Cavalry - Portillo loyalists believe some Tory MPs and ministers brief against their heir apparent. It seems scarcely credible.

Questions were asked during last night's RAF debate in the Commons with Labour's John Spellar denouncing "Hoorah Henrys" and Menzies Campbell, for the Liberal Democrats, making unkind comparisons with the England football team's flight home from Hong Kong. He called on Tory Venables to investigate. Mr Portillo's deputy, Nicholas Soames, maintained a stiff upper lip.

Britain

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Review

Crossword 18; Weather 16; Radio and TV 16



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Sketch

Out for the count in dragon's dungeon



Simon Hoggart

HOME OFFICE question time has become like some awful horror movie; in improbable colours with busy starlets getting bitten in the neck...

ive, we might have been able to deal with matters more effectively. It is cold now, icy cold, and the snow is falling hard...



Brother Number One: Pol Pot in 1979, resting in jungle territory where Khmer Rouge forces were regrouping following Vietnam's invasion

Pol Pot 'dying or now dead'

continued from page 1 Sources in the Thai military, which supported the Khmer Rouge in the 1980s and after, said yesterday that Pol Pot was sick, but in no danger...

Potted history

MAY 19, 1928: Pol Pot was born Saloth Sar to modestly prosperous peasants.

APRIL 17, 1975: After a five-year war, revolutionary forces sweep Pol Pot to power in Phnom Penh...

DECEMBER 1978: Vietnam invades Cambodia. Pol Pot flees to the Thai border where the Khmer Rouge regroup...

1 million Cambodians die of starvation and disease.

1982: The Khmer Rouge pull out of the UN-run peace process and step up attacks.

Mitchell peace role angers Unionists

Patrick Wintour and David Starrock

RESIDENT Clinton's aide, Senator George Mitchell, was handed a key role yesterday in next Monday's Northern Ireland peace talks...

with Sinn Fein excluded at the gates and Unionists kicking up over the presence of Mr Bruton and the role afforded to Mr Mitchell.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, took a less sanguine view saying: "It is manifest that Sinn Fein have excluded themselves from these negotiations."

need him sitting there at all?" The detailed package gives Senator Mitchell the role of chairing the opening plenary session as well as the crucial sub-committee responsible for overseeing the best means of handing over paramilitary weapons.

the first strand of talks on an internal settlement for Northern Ireland. Both governments will chair the third strand of talks on Dublin-London relations.

First night

Ashes to ashes, lust to lust...

Michael Billington

Habeas Corpus Donmar Warehouse SEX and death reverberate through Alan Bennett's joyous farce, Habeas Corpus...

rewritten in the manner of Orton or Wilde. The mechanism is deft and ingenious. But when Wickstead's neglected wife talks of "my body lying there night after night in the wasted moonlight..."

Oral sex added to HIV risk list

Tim Radford Science Editor

LEADING US Aids research centre warns today that oral sex could carry a much higher risk of HIV transmission than previously thought.

Logs blamed for solo rower's death

John Ezard



Peter Bird's capsized boat, seen from a Japanese plane

PETER Bird's odyssey - summed up in the title of his book Small Boat Against The Sea - have ended in the waters he traversed alone so passionately and so often for 22 years.

him by blowing 10 ft logs against his rowing boat and possibly knocking him unconscious.

was doing what he loved. He was a professional person, the boat was super - it was just the elements. Peter was one of those people everyone was pleased to see. He lit up the whole situation when he arrived...

Then came "that special time when the sun goes down and the moment is right for a gentle drop of whisky to greet the night".

Wee rumpus rocks town

PROPERTY magnate Robert Bellhouse is causing a wee bit of bother in the Cotswold town of Tetbury, where the Prince of Wales has his country home.

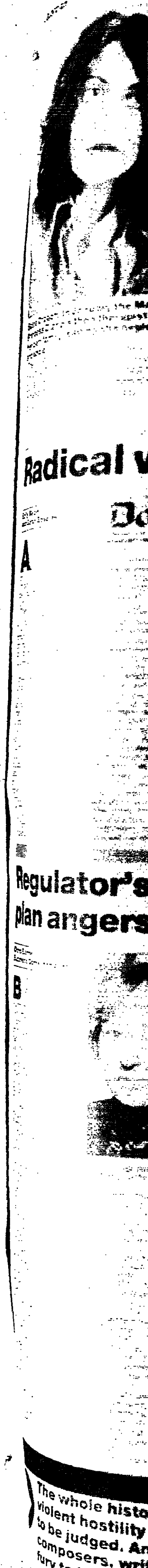
preparing on with his application to Cotswold district council later this month.

Cruise to Calais in comfort...

RELAX and just cruise across from Dover to Calais - the shortest sea route to France. Large, luxurious car ferries with shops, restaurants and entertainment on board...



For a shopping day, a relaxing stay or for immediate access to motorway... Calais ...begins with sea. DOVER/CALAIS OVER 140 CROSSINGS DAILY BY P&O EUROPEAN FERRIES, STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE & HOVERSPEED.



Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center





Susie Orbach: In January the Mail accused Princess Diana's then therapist of neglecting her own family, saying she neglected her aunt and uncle.



Patricia Hewitt: Allegations that she lied about her first marriage re-surfaced in the Daily Mail when she questioned the legal framework of marriage at a recent conference on fatherhood. She again won damages.



Lady Tessa Blackstone: The Daily Mail told the Opposition spokesperson on foreign affairs in the Lords they wanted to write a profile of her.



Liz Forgan: The Mail ran a series of pieces about Ms Forgan when she left Channel 4 to join the BBC. Some of them focussed on her relationship with a married man.

# Radical women hounded in 'private lives campaign'

Sally Weale and Sarah Bosoley

A NUMBER of leading leftwing women last night accused the Daily Mail of delving into their private lives in an attempt to discredit them in the run-up to the general election. Their complaints follow an account by the journalist Polly Toynbee of repeated attempts by the Mail to elicit information about her private life from her friends, colleagues and family.



quite certain that they are out to get women on the left." The Daily Mail, which prides itself on its support for traditional family values, is apparently focusing on the women's marital situations, allegedly looking for any discrepancy between their public pronouncements and their personal circumstances.

hit back first. I thought: I actually don't have a secret. My life is very public." A Daily Mail spokesman said last night: "Ask David Mellor, John Major, Lord Mackay and Michael Grade whether the Mail is only critical of leftwing women."

down. He called back again a couple of weeks later, and then again." Ms Mills said. Attempts were also made to speak to the father of Tessa Jowell's first husband, who is dead. Calls were also made to people she had worked alongside during her years at Camden Council.

Patricia Hewitt won damages from the Mail on Sunday in November 1994 over an article which suggested she had lied to conceal her first marriage, to the son of a Conservative MP. The charge was repeated by the Daily Mail in another context, resulting in a further pay-out recently.



Polly Toynbee... 'it dawned on me I had to hit back first'

Going public

Polly Toynbee: Alerted to Daily Mail investigation into her three-year relationship with a man who is separated from his wife, the Independent and former Guardian columnist took the offensive by writing about their tactics.

"I was terrified. I had sleepless nights wondering what they were after. It was not until they'd rung all these numbers that it suddenly dawned on me I had to hit back first. I thought, I actually don't have a secret. My life is very public. It may be that they want to misrepresent my situation in a malevolent light, but I don't have a secret."

## Regulator's price cuts plan angers British Gas

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

BRITISH GAS clashed angrily with the industry regulator Clare Spottiswoode yesterday over her proposals for fresh price controls that would cut £90 from the average domestic gas bill by the end of the decade.



Clare Spottiswoode says profits justify controls

consumers, would have to cut the average domestic bill of £235 by £8 in 1997/98, with further cuts in prices in the following two years.

the past, when gas prices were higher, BG's supply arm pays much more than today's price. But Ms Spottiswoode decided against measures to shield the consumer from these charges, deciding it was a "step too far".

## BT gives 'new boy' extra £42,500 for 90 day's work

Nicholas Bamister

SIR PETER Bonfield, British Telecom's new chief executive, has been awarded a £42,500 bonus after three months in the job.

Stanley Magnum Screwdrivers Set of 6 £15.99 Save £4.80 **£11.19**

Curver Extra Large Toolbox with Storage Lid £19.99 Save £4 **£15.99**

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The whole history of the arts is filled with examples of violent hostility between critic and artist. No one likes to be judged. And, from time immemorial, painters, composers, writers and performers have reacted like fury to the wasp-stings of critics.

Michael Billington, Review cover story

سكزا من الالهي



# London heat tops Nairobi

SUNSEEKERS needed to look no further than Britain yesterday as the country basked in sunshine and temperatures to rival those of Africa and the Mediterranean, writes Sue Quinn.

A top of 30C (86F) in London pipped temperatures in Naples and Nairobi. Highs of 25C were recorded in Birmingham, 20C in Manchester and 18C in Scotland.

"It was the hottest day so far this year, but it is nothing particularly unusual for the time of year," said a London Weather Centre spokesman.

"It just seems remarkable because it has come so quickly after a period of relatively cold weather. The rising mercury brought with it the predictable range of heat-related problems.

Poor air quality is predicted for the entire country today, and dangerously high levels of ozone and nitrogen dioxide are expected in some areas of London and the South.

There was also a fresh warning of possible sprinkler and hosepipe bans in parts of the country, with some water reservoirs in Yorkshire and the North West less than half full.



Sunbathers soaked up the rays in Soho Square, London, yesterday as temperatures rose to 30C (86F). Poor air quality is predicted for the entire country today

PHOTOGRAPH: KELLY CHOW

## Prescott to launch plan for regions

Regeneration report is biggest pitch yet for Labour deputy leader

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Prescott will next week make his biggest political pitch since becoming Labour deputy leader when he publishes a sweeping plan to regenerate Britain's declining regions.

The plan, the product of a report prepared by a team led by the former European Commissioner Bruce Millan, proposes to release £1.3 billion of cash by rescheduling local authority debt repayment. It also proposes new regional development agencies empowered to issue bond income to improve funding for new business. Risk would be shared with the private sector.

Overall, the plan proposes that the £11 billion that the Government currently spends on the regions must be made democratically accountable and decentralised.

It also suggests that local authorities be empowered to take minority stakes in local companies.

There would be a minister for the regions at cabinet level. This could possibly suit Mr Prescott himself, since he has yet to be assigned a clear

role in any future Labour government. Mr Prescott's allies will in speeches next week also argue that a precondition for British membership of a single currency must be a strong regional policy for Britain, since otherwise the only areas to benefit would be the South-east and East Anglia.

The report has not been squared in advance with the shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, but Mr Prescott will stress at its launch next week that its findings are independent of Labour and are not designed to increase government spending. However, it is known that Mr Prescott, an enthusiast for stronger regional economic policy, supports the bulk of the proposals.

The importance of Labour's approach to the regions will be underlined in a speech next week to the CBI in Leeds by Dick Caborn, one of Mr Prescott's closest allies. He will argue that peripheral regions will lose from a single currency unless a Labour government runs a far stronger regional policy to resist centralisation of economic growth in Germany, France, and Northern Italy.

The chief theme of the report, compiled by regional

economists, will be that regional policy needs to improve local industrial competitiveness, rather than acting as a form of sticking-plaster social policy for deprived areas.

The report states that current regional policy is centralised, prescriptive, piecemeal and inconsistent. It is dictated by remote ministers, or by appointees of local quangos, and pays scant regard to the relative needs of different regions.

Mr Millan will propose development agencies for every region of England. They will be responsible to the new, possibly-elected, regional chambers but be operationally separate, acting as their executive arm for economic development. The agency boards will be appointed by the chambers and include local authorities, businesses, bankers, and trade unionists. Central legislation would be passed for each agency, but each would choose the powers on which it wished to act.

Assisted area status should continue for areas of high unemployment, but status should be subject to wider factors, including pending economic decline. Regional Selective Assistance, the main regional instrument of the Department of Trade and Industry, would be altered to include grants for product development, training and research.

## Howard climbs down again

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE threat of imminent High Court action last night forced Michael Howard to withdraw a restrictive regime introduced only four days ago for hundreds of thousands of applicants who want to stay temporarily in Britain.

The Home Secretary has had to climb down over six new compulsory immigration forms to be completed by all overseas students, husbands and wives applying to stay with their spouses, visiting business people, artists and writers and elderly and other dependent relatives applying to stay with their families.

More than 30,000 people have been asked to complete the forms since they were introduced last month. They became compulsory on Monday for all those seeking leave to remain or settle in the UK.

The threat of legal action was brought by immigration lawyers who believe the forms require the applicants to supply an extensive range of original documents, including for example grandparents' birth and marriage certificates. Failure to provide originals, not copies, of all the requested documents will automatically mean the application fails and the person may face deportation.

Labour's immigration spokesman Douglas Hogg said last night: "It is another humiliation for a home secretary who thinks he can trample over existing law without reference to Parliament."

The application for judicial review came from the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association, representing 650 lawyers, who claimed the application procedures amounted to "a draconian and absolutist approach" which threatened to deprive thousands of people wanting to remain in Britain of their legal rights.

A High Court judge, Mr Justice Dyson, agreed and indicated he would have granted permission for the legal challenge to go ahead if the Home Secretary had not agreed to withdraw the forms.

The lawyers claimed the new forms meant that no application would be valid unless it was submitted on the correct compulsory form, and all the documents listed on the form were provided. The forms even ask for documents which go beyond those required by the immigration rules. Those seeking leave to stay on grounds they have British ancestors have to supply original birth and marriage certificates for their parents and grandparents, even though there is no requirement that they were married. The form gives no space to explain why a particular document is missing.

Laurie Fransman, ILPA co-founder, described the Home Secretary's decision as a huge climbdown: "We hope he will now abandon his flawed initiative entirely. That would be the proper, just and lawful course."

## Tory concern at EU veto waiver

Stephen Bates in Brussels and Michael White

TORY Eurosceptics last night warned the Cabinet not to weaken its beef crisis campaign of non-cooperation with the European Union, after Malcolm Rifkind's overnight "gesture of goodwill" towards Italy.

On the third day of his charm offensive around EU capitals — partly charm and partly offensive — Labour MEPs complained — the Foreign Secretary claimed a potential "turning point" in getting the EU's export ban on British beef lifted — an upbeat tone echoed by John Major at question time.

He did so on the basis of Italy (which hosts the EU's six-monthly summit in Florence on June 21-22) agreeing to act as a bridge in seeking a

framework deal before then. In return he agreed not to use Britain's veto to block an association agreement with Slovenia next week.

It was the first waiver of the veto since the non-cooperation campaign began, and had been agreed in advance by key ministers — a move which both Tory loyalists and Eurosceptics said represented "out first blink" in the confrontation.

"We can just about sell a deal on Slovenia, but it's a dangerous game," said one Tory minister — while ex-Chancellor Norman Lamont warned Mr Major against defeatism. Some reports claim Lady Thatcher wants him to stop paying Britain's EU contributions — an illegal move Mr Major rejected.

Yet EU foreign leaders continued to assert that the Government must do more to

reassure public opinion about the safety of beef.

Although the European Commission welcomed the concession on Slovenia as a first step in the right direction, both President Chirac and Chancellor Kohl repeated that conditions are not right to lift the ban.

Mr Chirac, who met Mr Rifkind and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, in Paris, reportedly told them: "When in doubt, the most rigorous option should be chosen" to restore consumer confidence. German ministers say there is no question of lifting the ban there.

After the meeting and before going to Madrid, Mr Rifkind claimed: "There is a growing feeling throughout Europe that we may reach an accommodation on this matter, which could bring an end to the crisis. I would hope it is

a matter of weeks." But officials and diplomats in Brussels believe talk of a framework deal is wildly optimistic, given that it took nearly three months to lift the simpler byproducts ban.

Diplomats scornfully dismiss any chance of an early deal — unless Mr Kohl is inclined to offer Mr Major a fudged form of words he can claim as a triumph.

If the ban stays, "a large black hole" will enter diplomatic diaries as the prolonged political holiday season starts in July. That would leave the prospect of Britain's non-cooperation policy still being in place in autumn.

Meanwhile, the European Parliament — supported by Labour MEPs and some Tories — yesterday voted heavily in favour of a motion calling on the Government to lift its non-cooperation policy.

## Snail 'safe' as Costain wins Newbury contract

THE building firm Costain was yesterday awarded the contract for the controversial Newbury bypass — and its offices were promptly blockaded by environmental protesters.

John Watts, the roads minister, announced the decision in a parliamentary written answer, adding that measures would be taken to protect a rare snail that lives on part of the 8.5 mile route.

The Desmoulin's Whorl snail had threatened to stop construction because English Nature, the Government's wildlife agency, had advised that its habitat should be declared a special area for conservation.

Mr Watts said that advice would be taken on board and a large and viable overall population of the snail would be maintained. The conservation measures would include reducing the amount of land taken from the snail habitat, and the creation of a new, larger habitat.

The demonstration at the Costain offices in Maidenhead, Berkshire, involved 25 veterans of the protest earlier this year, which was Britain's largest anti-roads campaign and became a fight over civil rights as well as environmental issues.

For three months people living in trees on the route hindered the progress of tree-fellers. Protesters, many still living in trees around Newbury, have vowed to harass Costain. Some have bought



Newbury protesters... some now plan to take the battle to Costain's annual meeting

PHOTOGRAPH: HOWARD J. DAVES

shares in the company and plan to disrupt its annual meeting.

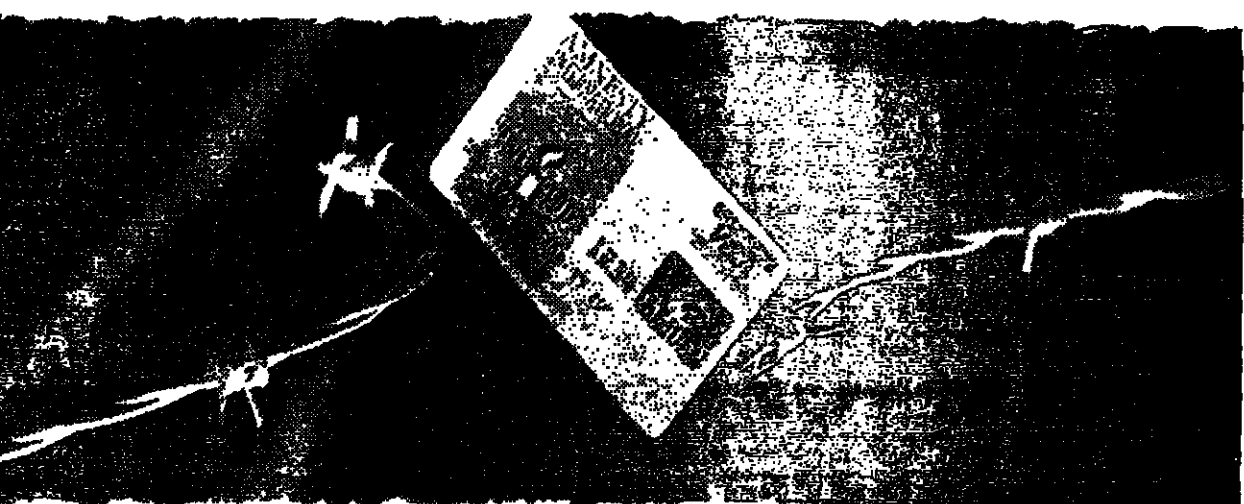
Friends of the Earth condemned the decision to award the building contract and said it was preparing a legal challenge, including an injunction to stop all work.

Charles Secrett, executive director, said: "The decision to continue building this road despite acknowledging the area's importance for wildlife is destructive and shortsighted. We will use every

lawful method we can to make the Government fulfil its obligations under European law."

The £74 million contract is seen by many as a poisoned chalice because of the bad publicity and expense caused by protesters. The chairman of Farmac, which built the M3 Turford Down extension, said last month that he did not want the Newbury contract without a guarantee it would conform to higher environmental standards.

## For some prisoners of conscience, death is the only release



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Hague tribunal steps up pressure as I-For moves to curb Karadzic

# War crimes court urges sanctions against Serbs

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

THE Hague tribunal yesterday stepped up its campaign for the arrest of Balkan war crimes suspects when its president, Antonio Cassese, said he would call for renewed international sanctions against the Serbs for failing to co-operate with the United Nations court.

Mr Cassese said the call would be addressed to Bill Clinton, the international community's High Representative in charge of the civilian implementation of the Bosnian peace accord. It would be made at an international conference on Bosnia next Thursday in Florence.

"In Florence, I will request that Bill Clinton trigger sanctions against Republika Srpska," Mr Cassese said in Sarajevo.

Republika Srpska is the half of Bosnia controlled by Serb separatists. Asked if he would also call for sanctions on rump Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) — the Bosnian Serbs' patrons — Mr Cassese replied: "Yes, probably, why not?"

Under the peace accord, sanctions can be reimposed within five days of Mr Bildt's recommendation. The peace implementation force (I-For) commander, Admiral Leighton Smith, also has the power

Goldstone attacks Nato inaction

THE failure of Nato-led forces to arrest individuals indicted for war crimes could be fatal to the credibility of the United Nations tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Justice Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor, warned last night, writes Richard Norton-Taylor.

It was hardly surprising, he said, that not one suspect had been detained of more than 50, given the limited mandate of the I-For peace implementation force. It empowered the force to arrest those indicted per-

sons whom they come across in the ordinary course of their duties.

"Imagine a serial rapist wanted for trial in England being informed that, because he is a dangerous killer, the police will not seek him out but will wait until they come across him... Yet that is the policy which is now in operation in respect of the persons wanted by the international community for the worst crimes known to mankind," Judge Goldstone said in the annual lecture of the David Davies Memorial Institute in London.

I-For is mandated to arrest war crimes suspects if it "comes across them". By making such encounters more likely, it is hoped the employment will diminish Mr Karadzic's room for manoeuvre.

"An increased I-For presence will help establish a greater sense of security among the people of Bosnia, and, in turn, more physical control will be deployed in the village stronghold of the Bosnian Serb leader and twice-indicted war criminal, Radovan Karadzic, as part of a dispersal of peacekeeping forces around the country.

Mr Cassese's call is part of an aggressive drive by Hague tribunal to put pressure on Belgrade and shame the international community into a more vigorous pursuit of Serb separatist leaders.

The main I-For troop contributors — the United States, Britain and France — have so far refused to allow the force to pursue Mr Karadzic or the Bosnian Serb military commander, General Ratko Mladic, who has also been indicted twice. Their view has been that such arrests would unleash a Serb backlash (possibly a guerrilla campaign) against I-For and toughen hardline Serb resistance to the reintegration of Bosnia.

Mr Bildt and the Hague tribunal argue that the presence in Bosnia of Mr Karadzic and Gen Mladic "pollutes" the political atmosphere in the run-up to elections, through their attempts to stop freedom of movement across ethnic boundaries and their influence on the Serb media.

The planned increase of patrols in Pale and elsewhere in Serb territory looks like a compromise. Nato will help sideline Mr Karadzic by preventing his movement in the hope that that will reduce the political pressure for his arrest.

Roll out the big guns, G2 page 7

# Vitriolic Yavlinsky goes it alone

David Hearst in Moscow

GREGORY YAVLINSKY, the young, vituperative liberal economist who has been courted by the Kremlin and the Communists, yesterday rejected any idea of a pact with either side in an attempt to present himself as Russia's only democratic alternative ahead of the presidential election on June 16.

Mr Yavlinsky denounced President Boris Yeltsin's government as "oligarchic, monopolistic, corrupted, criminalised and weak" but said that under no conditions would he take part in a government formed by the Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov.

In two meetings with Mr Yeltsin, Mr Yavlinsky urged him to dismiss four ministers, including defence minister, General Pavel Grachev. All remain in place and Mr Yavlinsky said yesterday that negotiations had ended.

Mr Yavlinsky predicted that one of the other leaders of the so-called third force of political centrists, the retired

general Alexander Lebed, could well join Mr Yeltsin's camp. This would drive the final nail into the coffin of any possible centrist alliance.

Mr Yavlinsky's harshest words were reserved for the president. He characterised Mr Yeltsin's five-year tenure of office as "the bloodiest regime since the end of the second world war". The lives lost when tanks fired on the Russian parliament in October 1993 and the 30,000 deaths in Chechnya would be followed by the death of "millions" if Mr Yeltsin continued down the path of "senseless totalitarianism", warned Mr Yavlinsky.

Dismissing Mr Yeltsin's peace initiative in Chechnya as a Byzantine bluff, Mr Yavlinsky said the Russian president was trying with three scenarios simultaneously: a pact with the democratic opposition; a pact with the Communists; and postponement or cancellation of elections altogether.

"All three scenarios are still on the table, and they are still being worked on. I don't have any doubt that the decla-

rations of Yeltsin's close advisers about postponing or cancelling the elections were done with his agreement," Mr Yavlinsky said.

He maintained that most Russians want neither a second term of Mr Yeltsin nor a return of the Communists, and claimed that every vote for him would be a vote against the "dark forces" that both men represent.

Meanwhile, Mr Zyuganov, who has been received well on the final leg of a Siberian tour, also fired up his campaign rhetoric by suggesting his supporters could take to the streets if he is prevented from winning. "If 35 or 40 million people vote for us they may go out to the streets the next day to say: 'We have voted and demand that our will is carried out,'" he said in Krasnoyarsk.

Mr Zyuganov has already called on supporters to flood Russia's polling stations to stop what he claimed would be widespread attempts at falsification. The Kremlin has blasted back, saying the Communists will attempt to disrupt the polling, and thou-

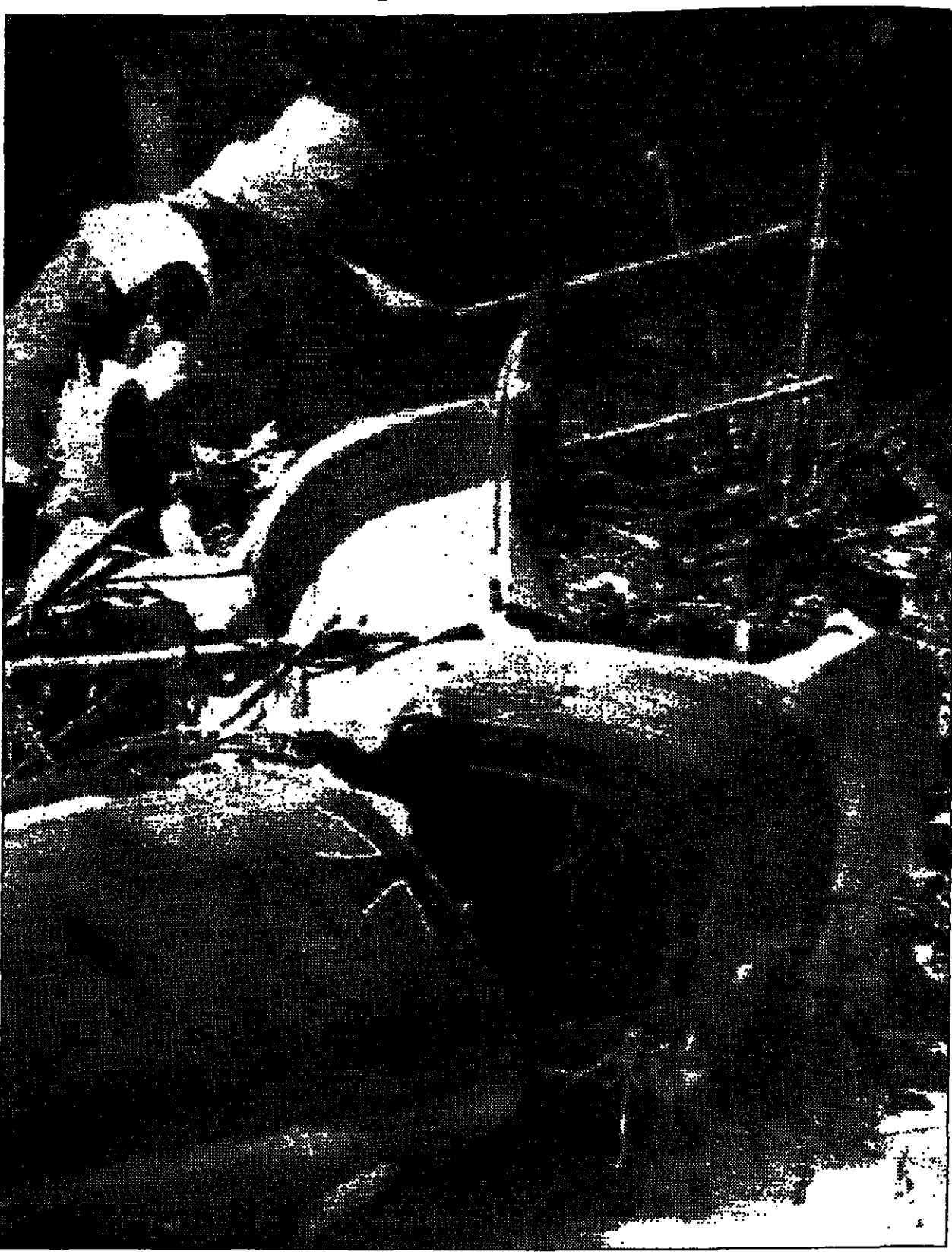
sands of troops have already been deployed in Moscow.

Meanwhile, in the north Caucasian republic of Ingushetia, talks between Russia and the Chechen rebels continued for a second day in an effort to enforce a ceasefire.

But the chief Chechen delegate, Said-Khasan Abumuslimov, said on Wednesday that he felt an "increasing certainty" that the talks were little more than a campaign tool for Mr Yeltsin. And the rebels' information minister, Movladi Udugov, commented: "Either we sign an agreement or we can say that Yeltsin's peace initiative failed."

The ceasefire was due to start last Saturday but fighting has continued. Three Russian servicemen were wounded in rebel attacks overnight.

The Russian military command yesterday accused the Chechens of planning attacks in other areas of southern Russia to disrupt the election. If the peace talks fail, several leading Chechen field commanders have hinted they are prepared to resume attacks on Russia.



A rescue worker inspects the wreckage of the helicopter at the crash site south of Dortmund. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANZ PETER

# 13 die in German helicopter crash

A GERMAN military helicopter plunged into woodland near Dortmund yesterday killing thirteen people.

Six of the passengers were young people aged between 19 and 21 who were attending a youth festival. They had won the helicopter flight in a prize draw.

There was one survivor, a

passenger who jumped on to a motorway, sustaining serious injuries, as the helicopter was about to crash, a defence ministry spokesman said. Police said the survivor's life was no longer in danger.

Both crew members of the Bell UH-1D helicopter, aged 36 and 38, were killed. The other passengers were

a nurse and members of two television camera teams.

The helicopter had taken off from Dortmund's Westfalenhalle sports and exhibition complex. Unconfirmed radio reports said the pilot tried to land on the motorway, then aimed at a clearing in the wood before his rotor blades snagged in

the trees and brought the helicopter down.

"This is one of the worst accidents in the history of the German armed forces," the defence minister, Volker Rühle, said after inspecting the crash site. He ordered an inquiry into the causes of the disaster. State prosecutors also began investigations. — Reuter.

## World news in brief

### Family leaves besieged Montana ranch

Martin Walker in Washington

THE first break in the 74-day siege of a Montana ranch where an anti-government group has been holed up came last night, when a family of four, including two children, gave themselves up.

They were questioned at

the regional FBI headquarters in Jordan, Montana, about the situation at the ranch, where at least 17 members of the Freemen, a right-wing militia movement, remain.

The FBI has handled the siege with kid gloves, fearing a right-wing political backlash similar to the one which followed the federal assault on

the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas in 1993. It began tightening the pressure at the weekend, cutting off the ranch's electricity and sealing it off from the media.

The Freemen claim to be political opponents of the federal government. They have issued their own notes and bonds, provoking fraud charges against them.

### Commissioner calls for EU crackdown on trade in women

AP in Brussels

THE European Union's top justice official urged EU countries yesterday to crack down on international trafficking of women forced into prostitution.

The EU Justice Commissioner, Anita Gradin, said governments could track down smugglers more aggressively, enforce stricter punishments and fight poverty that often lead women into prostitution.

"The European Union must put this issue on its agenda," she said.

Officials estimate that 800,000 prostitutes are living illegally in the EU after being smuggled by international traders and organised crime syndicates.

Ms Gradin said the women came mainly from Asia, Africa and Latin America but increasingly from eastern Europe. Criminal groups, already steeped in drugs and weapons trafficking, were taking advantage of an abundant supply of east European women, dreaming of a richer life in the West.

When they arrived, their passports were often taken away and they were forced into prostitution to pay off inflated debts for food, accommodation and travel.

The gangsters knew that cases were often hard to prove and convictions carried light sentences. Ms Gradin said that in her native Sweden, traffickers of human beings were often jailed for one to two years and drug traders for up to 12.

Ms Gradin also called for tougher witness-protection programmes that would encourage women to testify against traffickers. The European Commission planned to consider legislation on the matter after a meeting of experts next week in Vienna, she said.

### Juppé to boost female deputies

THE French constitution may be modified to compel parties to increase women's representation, the prime minister, Alain Juppé, said yesterday, Alex Duval Smith in Paris writes.

In response to a call from 10 women politicians Mr Juppé said he was in favour of a law requiring a third of candidates on parties' lists to be women.

The prime minister, who sacked eight women in his first reshuffle last year, said the constitutional change would be put to a referendum if all parties agreed. If it was rejected, he would consider reducing public funding for parties in which women were ill-represented.

There are 32 women at the National Assembly — five times fewer than in Sweden, which tops the European Union list of women's parliamentary representation.

### Burmese junta bans meetings

Burma's military regime yesterday escalated a confrontation with the pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, prohibiting weekend meetings outside her house that have become a rallying point for dissent.

Opposition sources said 144 of the 283 people rounded up by the junta to try to prevent a pro-democracy congress had been freed. — AP.

### EU-Slovenia pact

Slovenia's acting foreign minister, Zoran Thaler, yesterday welcomed the European Union's decision to sign an association agreement with Ljubljana next week — the first exception to Britain's current policy of non-cooperation with the EU. — Reuter.

### Angola visit off

South Africa's President Nelson Mandela yesterday indefinitely postponed next week's state visit to Luanda because

### New Arafat baby

The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and his wife Soha are expecting another baby, friends said yesterday. — AP.

### Scharping injured

The parliamentary chairman of Germany's opposition social Democrats, Rudolf Scharping, was yesterday in intensive care with concussion and head wounds after a bicycle accident. — AP.

### Zambia criticised

Britain is reviewing its £20 million aid programme to Zambia to show its concern at "undemocratic trends" there, the overseas development minister, Lynda Chalker, said. She expressed concern about a constitutional amendment banning former President Kenneth Kaunda from contesting elections. — AP.

### Abiola reward

The Nigerian military government offered a £20,000 reward yesterday for information leading to the arrest of the killers of the wife of the imprisoned opposition leader, Moshood Abiola. — AP.

### Chernobyl threat

Ukraine may reconsider its pledge to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, after talks with Western countries made little progress on financing the shutdown, the country's top negotiator said yesterday. — Reuter.

It's not just mad cows and Englishmen who blow off chauvinistic steam over national icons. Civil war and revolutions have been fertile breeding ground for most of Europe's national anthems.

Review page 10

**Wine Rack**

BEFORE THE KICK-OFF, THERE'S A GOOD CASE FOR POPPING INTO WINE RACK AND SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR ENGLAND'S FIRST MATCH.

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Arab

Cry for help Iranian thi

Other worlds

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# Arab leaders put faith in summitry

Solidarity, if they can achieve it, would show they have something to offer in the Netanyahu era, writes **David Hirst** in Beirut

**A**RAB summitry is back in fashion. On Monday the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, met Syria's Hafez al-Assad, last great opponent of a peace treaty with Israel. On Wednesday, he met King Hussein and the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, Yasser Arafat, recent recruits to the peace camp. Today Mr Assad and Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia...

The Saudi newspaper, al-Sharq al-Awsat summed up the dominant Arab reaction: "With these elections, the Israelis have said 'no' to peace — even to a peace top-sided in their favour." For Arabs almost everywhere, the resurgence of the Israeli right makes a mockery of the philosophy which, at US urging, has underlain the Arab approach to the peace process: offer concessions to the Israelis in the hope of securing them in return. The reward of Arab moderation...

not to echo too loudly what they know their people think. Mr Assad says "things are not going in a positive direction". Mr Mubarak that they "do not inspire confidence". Only King Hussein manages optimism: everything, he says, is still on course for a "comprehensive peace". In reality, only Mr Assad has the right to a grim satisfaction: he always said that for each Arab country to go its own way would ultimately be the undoing of them all...

alternative. But they do not have the means or will, even collectively let alone individually, to make or threaten war, or even to suggest that it is time to start preparing for one. Yet they know that they cannot go on making concessions either, just to keep the peace process alive. That is what the resurgent right requires of them, what Mr Netanyahu spelled out in his electoral programme. After Beirut, they did have concessions to offer. President Sadat

made his separate peace; King Hussein and Mr Arafat eventually did likewise. They — or their regimes — all survived. It would be unwise to say that they have given their all: Mr Arafat, for one, always finds something extra. But he is being called upon to engage in "final-status" negotiations with a "partner" who says he won't even shake hands with him, and to negotiate issues, such as Jerusalem, which the "partner" says are non-negotiable. Mr Assad is expected to re-engage in peace talks with an adversary who says he will never give up the only thing Mr Assad wants: the Golan.

that makes it impossible. The only way they can think of is that old, intuitive stand-by — Arab summitry. Mr Assad is the most fervent advocate of a pan-Arab strategy; Arab "solidarity" was always a cardinal tenet of his. His newspapers warn that continued Arab disarray will lead to "a real catastrophe for the whole Arab nation". The most that any Arab summit could do, in present circumstances, is to send a message to the US. Its essence would be that the peace process is in dire peril and the consequences of its collapse would be as disastrous for the US as for themselves. They would send this message in the conviction that they now occupy the moral high ground, that it should be plain to all — even to the US — that Israel, not they, is the real enemy of peace.

The trouble is that the mere convening of such a conference would be a miracle. Since the Gulf war, and the ostracism of Iraq, the Arabs have fallen into such disarray that even paltry displays of solidarity are beyond them. Mr Assad says that, in the absence of a full summit, he would go for one of "front-line" Arab states. And yet, according to the Jordanians, he would attend that only if King Hussein and Mr Arafat first admitted the error of their ways. The danger of calling for Arab summits which cannot be held is that this sends the opposite message from that which is intended. It in-crases, not reduces, Arab disarray. That is why, even as he works for a summit, Mr Mubarak has been so cautious about his chances of actually getting one.

The trouble is the convening of such a summit would be a miracle in itself

sions either, just to keep the peace process alive. That is what the resurgent right requires of them, what Mr Netanyahu spelled out in his electoral programme. After Beirut, they did have concessions to offer. President Sadat

## Cry for help by Iranian thinker



Other worlds

to my life. Every time I have to pass through a picket line, comprising motorcyclists and pedestrians, who block my entry to the university by shouting obscenities. They seem very determined to initiate violence. I have had to arrive at the university much earlier than the time of my scheduled lecture and often in secret. On a number of occasions I have had to abandon a lecture and leave my terrified students in the middle of the classroom. Sometimes, the lecture is cancelled as I am unable to enter the university.

**A**S THE gulf widens in Iran between hard-line clergy and reformist thinkers both in and outside the clerical establishment, a professor at Tehran University has become the focus of conflict. Lectures by Abdolkarim Soroush have been repeatedly stopped or interrupted by militants, apparently with the tacit support of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

They accuse Dr Soroush, whose reputation as a thinker and voice of modernism is growing in the Shiite world, of attacking "religious sovereignty" under the guise of scientific discourse. With the hardliners whipping up sentiment against him, Dr Soroush has written an open letter to President Hashemi Rafsanjani seeking protection. The following are extracts from his appeal.

TO the honourable president of the Islamic Republic of Iran: No doubt you are aware that for nearly a year now I have been the target of sensation, violence and destructive intimidation by certain pressure groups and their affiliated press. In addition, the information ministry, by resorting to threats, by setting limits and by serving repeated summonses, pushed me into a corner, violated my rights as a human being, and gave a free hand to my enemies.

At the start of the current academic year, I was given only one subject to teach in Tehran University, which I have had to abandon on several occasions. I am supposed to teach philosophy and social science to the postgraduates in this university. However, every time I set off for the Faculty of Social Science, I have to face serious threats



Pigeon post... A woman sells birdseed in Eminoniu Square in Istanbul, where 1,000 people rallied, against the backdrop of the UN conference on human settlements under way in the city, for more justice in housing

## Gazans have faith in Bibi's real face

Many Palestinians believe Israel's PM-elect will soften his tough rhetoric. **Jessica Berry** in Gaza reports

**H**ASSAN ASFOUR, the chief Palestinian peace negotiator, was earnestly discussing a possible change in tack after Israel's change of leadership when there was a buzz at the door. In came a junior official carrying a black plastic box from which he drew a gleaming automatic. "This" cried a delighted Mr Asfour, brandishing the weapon, "will be our new strategy!"

Aside from such black humour, Gazan Palestinians have reacted to the sudden rise to power of the prime minister-elect, Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, with curious equanimity. Mr Netanyahu is blunt and tough, they say — a point reinforced on Wednesday when the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, talked of a free Palestinian state with its capital in east Jerusalem, and Israel's new leader responded: "Never."

But many Gazan Palestinians seem to think that dealing with someone this straightforward could be less confusing than dealings with the outgoing prime minister, Shimon Peres. Seated at his large desk in Gaza, the justice minister, Freih Abu Medein, delivered the briefest of vaudeville dictories to Mr Peres: "That chicken man", he laughed.

Things could not get much worse for Gazans. Unemployment is high and living conditions are basic. For three years, the Israeli government has prevented tens of thousands of Gazans from getting to their work in Israel. Youths have little to do in what they call their "big prison" but stroll along the pavements or fly kites. One shop owner, Mahmoud, complained that he used to make about £1,000 a day. Now he makes £10, and has a family of 10 to feed.

Enter Bibi. It is still not known how — indeed whether — he will continue the peace process. But at least he is different — frank, Mr Abu Medein welcomed his election. "The new government is easy. It is black and white, not rainbow colour," he said. Mr Peres offered only "words, words, words", Salah Tamari, a council member, added.

One Islamic member of the Palestinian self-rule council, Sheikh Wajih, said Mr Netanyahu — unlike his predecessor — "will be tough at first, just to satisfy his own voters, but he won't show his real face". The real face, he said, is more moderate: bit by bit, he will weaken. Pressure from the United States, Europe, and a strong Israeli opposition will, he believes, prevent Mr Netanyahu's excesses.

A belief that the West will always help out in times of trouble is a Palestinian trait — but it flies in the face of a reality in which the US gives Israel more than \$3 billion (£2 billion) a year. But Sheikh Wajih's attitude is widespread. Ziad Abu Amr, a former negotiator in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, was typically upbeat. Palestinians have no reason to fear, he said, because Mr Netanyahu was too ambitious to risk falling out of favour with the West too early. "Netanyahu is brilliant and pragmatic. If he wants to continue in his position he will have to change... He will not want to be held responsible for a deteriorating Middle East," Mr Abu Amr said.

The Islamist group Hamas, however, panned scorn on his reasoning. Mahmoud Zahar, spokesman for the political wing of the group, which was responsible for the recent wave of suicide bombings, warned of a renewed armed struggle. After the last suicide attack in March outside a Tel Aviv shopping mall, Western leaders rushed to Mr Peres's aid, he said. They convened a peace summit to combat terrorism in Sharm el-Sheikh. Where was that summit, he asked, when the Israeli air force massacred some 100 Lebanese civilians in a United Nations refugee camp in south Lebanon? "There is no difference between Peres and Netanyahu," Dr Zahar said. "They are two ugly sides of the same coin."

## Turkish government collapses

**Chiris Nuttall** in Ankara

**T**URKEY'S coalition government broke up yesterday after only three months in office, raising the possibility of an administration led, for the first time, by a radical Islamist. Necmettin Erbakan, head of the Welfare Party, is to meet the president this morning to discuss the chances of forming a new coalition. His pro-Islamic party is the largest group in parliament, having narrowly won the election in December.

It was excluded from power by a minority coalition of the two centre-right parties, Motherland and True Path, forced together by a secular establishment fearful that Islamic policies would shake the foundations of the republic. But a personal vendetta between the prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz of Motherland, and the True Path leader,

Tansu Ciller, has sunk the government. Mrs Ciller withdrew her party from the coalition two weeks ago and the prime minister resigned yesterday to pre-empt certain defeat in a censure motion put forward by Welfare. The coalition fell apart over corruption inquiries instituted by Welfare against Mrs Ciller. Mr Yilmaz's MPs backed Welfare on the issue. Mrs Ciller accused Mr Yilmaz of betrayal and called him a "sleazeball". But her abandonment of the coalition was seen as a possible move to strike an alliance with Welfare and then a deal for it to drop the investigations. That option faded on Wednesday when Welfare won a vote for a third inquiry, into how Mrs Ciller amassed a million pound fortune. Mrs Ciller's inquiry failed in True Path meanwhile failed in a vote for an inquiry into Mr Erbakan's considerable assets. Mrs Ciller will be the second visitor to the presi-

dent's residence today, followed by the leaders of two leftwing parties. President Demirel said the Turkish people should not worry: Mr Yilmaz would preside over a caretaker administration and it should be possible to form modern Turkey's 5th government out of the present parliament in the next 45 days. That would mean a government of national consensus involving all the parties, or Welfare with one of the centre-right parties. Otherwise, Mr Yilmaz said, "an early election is an option". Welfare would benefit most from new polls. In local elections last Sunday, it polled more votes than the two centre-right parties combined. They have lost support since December because of the corruption allegations and their infighting, which paralysed the government. Mr Erbakan has said Welfare is only days from power. He told a rally last week he would let civil servants attend Friday prayers and lift the ban on Muslim headscarves in educational institutions. He has worried Western governments with his strident Islamism. He vehemently opposes Turkey's recent military co-operation accord with Israel, wants to renegotiate a customs union with the European Union and has vowed to eject American, British and French air crews operating an air umbrella from southern Turkey to protect the Kurds of northern Iraq.

**NatWest Base Rate**  
NatWest announces that with effect from 6 June 1996 its Base Rate is reduced from 6.00% to 5.75% per annum. All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.  
**NatWest**  
National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

**Clydesdale Bank**  
**BASE RATE**  
Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that with effect from close of business on 6th June 1996 its Base Rate has been reduced from 6.00% to 5.75% per annum.



## A cut for self-interest

Clarke doesn't want Blair to get his boom

THE CITY was absolutely right yesterday in deducing that Chancellor Clarke's surprise 0.25 per cent cut in interest rates was politically motivated. Of course it was. The Government is suddenly worried that its carefully planned pre-electoral boom will turn into a post-electoral one with Labour taking the pickings. Among all the things Mr Clarke would like himself to be remembered for in the history books, you can be sure that laying down the economic foundations for a Labour government is the very last. But the fact that the move was politically motivated doesn't mean it isn't economically justified. The economy is growing at under 2 per cent a year which is well below its short-term potential (almost 3 per cent a year according to yesterday's report by the Chancellor's panel of independent forecasters). Consumer spending is expanding at 2.5 per cent but the other two legs of recovery — exports and investment — are still very sick. In these circumstances a cut in interest rates of more than 0.25 per cent would be justified to make credit cheaper for manufacturers — not to mention mortgages for voters — and to stem the recent rise in sterling (now 13 per cent below the level before Black Wednesday in 1992 compared with 16.4 per cent at the start of the year). This is threatening to make exports less competitive in a static world market.

Whether an even sharper fall in interest rates would persuade companies to invest is a moot point. They seem to be on an investment strike. Despite having the best inflation environment that most businessmen can remember, companies refuse to lay down more capacity. During the two most recent quarters manufacturing investment has fallen despite steady, if unspectacular growth. No wonder Michael Heseltine is having such trouble persuading businessmen to cough up for the Mil-

lennium project at Greenwich when they are so reluctant to invest in the future of their own companies. There is plenty of money in corporate coffers but it is being spent on take-over bids, on higher dividends for shareholders or on buying back the companies' own shares. Anything but laying the foundations for a prosperous future. From the point of view of an individual company this myopia can be justified in that most of them have been hit by sluggish world markets particularly in Europe and can meet immediate demand from their high levels of stocks. But in the long-term it is collective corporate madness because without investment the economy will not move into higher gear without stoking up inflation.

The long term is the last thing the Government is worrying about at the moment. It desperately needs to get re-elected within a year. Consumers are being bombarded with measures designed to improve the feelgood factor including April's £4 billion tax cuts, electricity and gas rebates, maturing Tesco savings accounts, building society bonanza pay-outs, lottery projects and so on. But none of this has — yet — done anything to improve the Conservatives' standing at the polls. The odds are that this imbalanced recovery will gather speed as the election approaches and the economy may even be expanding at an annual rate of 3 to 4 per cent by next Spring. Yesterday's frosty reaction by the City suggests that Mr Clarke won't easily be allowed to get away with further reductions in interest rates. Decades ago the City might have welcomed a cut in interest rates if it helped the Conservatives to be returned to office. Now the City suits seem totally unfazed by the prospect of a Labour government. They are much more interested in monetary orthodoxy than political correctness. Maybe that's the real story about yesterday's events.

## In the shadow of the IRA's guns

Nothing in the lead-up to the talks offers hope of a solution

PROFESSIONAL optimists will, as usual, take comfort from the latest twist in the Northern Ireland saga. They will say that yesterday's procedural announcement, and the stretching hours that went into the preparation of it, show how seriously both the British and Irish governments take their responsibilities in the peace process. They will point to some genuinely unusual events this week: indeed, for the Irish prime minister to fly to London for the sole purpose of talking to the leader of the Ulster Unionists (which happened on Wednesday) is a remarkable first. There is no doubt that the two teams of ministers and civil servants have laboured mightily. There is no doubt either, that they are determined to prove that the show will go on, even without Sinn Féin.

The rest of us, though, will be less excited by yesterday's batch of plans for Monday's talks. Not because the structure, personnel or timings which finally emerged late yesterday afternoon are inappropriate. Not because the overall architecture is balanced in favour of one side or another. Neither of those accusations is true, and the Conservative MP Terry Dicks only makes himself ridiculous by claiming that George Mitchell, who played such a constructive role earlier in the story, should not play a key role now. The real problem is elsewhere, in the recognition that it should have taken so long, at this stage of the process, to produce such an essentially logical and practical

package. Everything that has happened over the past few days smacks of posturing — by the governments, the political parties, and the non-playing participants alike. Nothing speaks of that "will to compromise" of which we otherwise hear so much. There is a dispiriting feeling that the amount of talking and paper produced by the process are becoming inversely proportional to the progress actually made. If it takes this long to choose a chairman, what hope is there that they will be able to reach an agreement on something really sensitive — like Northern Ireland's relationship with the Republic of Ireland? Excuse us while we restrain our enthusiasm.

The deeper anxiety is not about the detail of the agreement announced last night. It is quite simply that this is potentially a phoney exercise. Sinn Féin's absence from next week's talks seems inevitable now. But without them these talks risk only being another version of the "Brooke/Mayhew" talks which began in 1991 (also, Mr Dicks might note, under an international chairman, Sir Ninian Stephen) and collapsed a year later. True, the agenda next week is more extensive than the agenda then. The momentum for agreement is undoubtedly stronger. The positions of some of the participants have changed in important ways. In the end, though, it was impossible to achieve a compromise agreement under the shadow of the gun. That, once more, is the great fear this time too.

## Epitaph for a mass murderer

But why was Pol Pot allowed to get away with it for so long?

THE REAL QUESTION about Pol Pot is not whether his death is confirmed but why he has lived at liberty for so long. Thousands of Cambodians have been killed by Khmer Rouge guns and mines since Vietnam ousted his regime and the recovery of the whole country has been wrecked. How on earth was he allowed to survive?

The unhappy answer is that Cambodia was liberated by the wrong people in January 1979. A perverse alliance of the US and China, with Britain and others tagging along, pursued a vendetta against Vietnam because it had dared to win a previous war. The Khmer Rouge was allowed to retain its seat at the UN. Pol Pot himself obligingly "stepped down". In 1982 a bogus coalition of "resistance forces", dominated by the Khmer Rouge, took over the UN seat with Western diplomatic support. It was armed and trained (by the SAS among others) to kill and carry

out sabotage from its sanctuaries in Thailand. History was rewritten: the new government backed by Vietnam in Phnom Penh was said to be "exploiting" the evidence of Pol Pot's atrocities. Some of the Khmer Rouge, Margaret Thatcher argued, were now believed to be quite "reasonable".

None of Thailand's powerful Western friends ever asked it to intern the Khmer Rouge, cut off supplies to their bases across the border, or deliver Pol Pot to be tried in Phnom Penh for his crimes. He visited China for medical treatment and vacationed in a Thai seaside villa. When the West finally relented, allowing the UN to broker a Cambodian peace settlement in 1991, they insisted that the Khmer Rouge should be in on the deal.

Pol Pot's epitaph is easily written: he was a mass murderer of his own people. History still has to pass verdict on those who shamefully abetted his survival.



## Letters to the Editor

### The disciplinary tribunal

IT WAS with some relief that I read that Tony Blair regretted smacking his children and acknowledged this was the wrong way to discipline them (The smacker of firm government, June 6). He should pass the message on to his office aide who tried to justify the practice by claiming there were very few parents who never smacked their children, and that there was a "huge difference" between smacking and violence.

The aide is wrong on both points. As a parent I have never come close to smacking my children, and I think most of my friends would be able to make the same claim. The reason is that there can never be a good or sufficient reason to hit a child — and certainly not when the child is doing something dangerous (the old finger-in-the-plug excuse). The effect of this is simply to teach the child that if she puts her fingers in the plug when daddy is watching, she'll get whacked.

I also fail to see the distinction between a parental "smack" and violence. A smack, hiding, clip around the ear, or whatever the euphemism, is either an inappropriate outlet for parental anger or is intended as a sanction involving pain, fear or shock. Either way it is violent, and were it not administered by a parent could lead to an assault conviction. Blair should consider following the example of Sweden, which outlawed smacking in the home in 1979 (subsequently followed by five other EC countries), resulting

in a statistically significant reduction in child battering. Gavin Evans, 117a Mount View Road, London N4 4JH.

WHY should Tony Blair be condemned by the NSPCC for admitting that he has occasionally smacked his children? I have no brief to defend Mr Blair, but I do wish that bodies like the NSPCC wouldn't over-react.

Perhaps I missed the bit where Mr Blair urged the UK's parents to beat their children on the slightest pretext? Perhaps I missed the bit where he said how much pleasure the smacks gave him? I have no wish to defend the physical abuse of children, but I have never understood why psychological punishment should be preferable. Why is it always had to smack and yet OK to deprive children of love and affection? Seems odd to me. Michael Fidd, 4 Prospect Drive, Lancaster LA2 6HX.

## Last orders

THE announcement by the Government that it is hoping further to reduce the licensing hours of pubs will have sent a shudder through many of thousands of homes. This piece of "deregulation" insultingly portrayed as a joyous concession to people's "modern leisure lifestyle" is so obviously a payoff to the brewing industry for its loyal support, and a recognition of its power in the lobbies.

For the thousands of people who live near a pub or on a road to or from a pub this news is misery. We are the ones who will be subsidising this payoff. We already know all too well how little sleep we can expect at the weekend as we wait until well after midnight for the majority of car-racing maniacs and yobbish louts to disperse; now we will have to wait until well past one in the morning.

It was interesting to note that the police were not raising any objections to the scheme. In country areas where there is no police presence at night, and where holidaymakers happily remark to each other that they can drink as much as they like and drive "with no problems", they are not there to deal with the problems.

Profoundly moving to those present, but not apparently to the dozen or so young Londoners from the East End, aged no more than 15, who had decided that the immaculately grassed area was the ideal place on which to fight with each other and from which to shout obscenities. A Belgian woman, near to tears, called up to the group and asked them to treat

from the truth. The proposed changes are driven by commercial pressures to sell more alcohol. Licensing hours have already been extensively lengthened: surely thought must be given to whether there is not now too much encouragement for drinking in the UK. Apart from the obvious relationship between drinking and anti-social behaviour, one also ought to consider the noise and disturbance to local residents; do they want to be kept awake until late at night? Denis H Goose, 3 St Chad's Terrace, Shrewsbury SY1 1JL.



### A time of our lives when Hillsborough was a daily event

IT WOULD do well for these poor traumatised policeman (23 for Hillsborough police provokes anger, June 4) to study recent history; they would realise what hopeless shadows they are of their forebears. From 1940 onwards policemen, firemen, ARP workers and medical staff dealt daily, men and women, with incidents far worse than Hillsborough. Not once, but week after week, month after month. I remember when over 400 people, mainly children, were killed by one bomb.

The bodies had to be pulled out of the wreckage, cleaned up, laid out for identification and finally buried. And these devoted people also faced the real prospect of getting killed themselves.

After the war they returned to their normal lives. But, of course, many modern medical symptoms hadn't been invented in those days. Douglas Mourtoun, Mountain Farm, Hamstreet, Near Ashford, Kent TN26 2JD.

DO NOT doubt that the Hillsborough police officers showed considerable courage in that awful disaster. But £20,000 each for traumatic stress disorder, whatever that may mean? Were we made of sterner stuff in those 1939-45 years?

I suffered nightmares for years after that war and very occasionally still do. But I still managed to carry on with a career and look after my family. I am glad to say that I have conquered the urge to dive for cover when RAF jets fly low over my house. There are millions who suffered far worse than I without one penny compensation for their inconvenience. A close friend, for nearly four years a Japanese POW, is a wreck who still cringes at the sound of a loud voice. He does get a war pen-

sion but only after a long and tedious exercise of form-filling. It, as seems likely, he goes into residential care, the local authority will probably take his house to cover the cost. Peter Rogers, 13 Penre Banad, Wimmerfield, Killay, Swansea SA2 7DD.

IT IS interesting that the solicitors representing the police authority have been instructed to settle with the officers concerned, but the families of those who died are still having to fight for a settlement commensurate with their loss. Would this have anything to do with the fear that had the police officers gone to court to fight for compensation, evidence so far unheard may be produced which would give greater credence to the claims of the families?

As has so often been stated, the police chose to be police, the dead did not choose to die. John McCarthy, 39 Weymouth Street, Apsley, Herts HP3 9SL.

THE award of compensation to police officers traumatised by the Hillsborough disaster is an absolute disgrace. Police officers are paid to deal with disasters, accidents and emergencies; it is an integral part of their job.

PC David Frost's account (June 4) was harrowing and moving. Clearly police officers can be severely affected by their experiences. However, this shouldn't detract from the fact that they are expected to deal with all aspects of human life and suffering. Police officers know this when they take on the job. Ian Cook, 25 Napier Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 4HG.

## Price of no incomes policy

AT LAST a political party ready to tackle the cause of so many of the problems the Labour Party shies away from tackling (Lib Dems to target the super-rich, June 5). The widening social divisions caused by the rich minority getting ever richer while the poor lose all kinds of security need to be tackled as a priority. The Liberal Democrats' proposals to free low earners from the tax burden and the poverty trap will be a welcome start.

No doubt the Tories, along with their New Labour friends, will attack the proposal for a higher rate on high earners. But France and Germany seem to manage, and even Japan taxes incomes of over £102,000 at 50 per cent. Does Labour have a policy yet? Neil Fawcett, 53 Wiltshire Gardens, London N4 1HG.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters.

## A Country Diary

ROSELAND, CORNWALL: The wooded valley landward of Pendower Beach is in the ownership of the National Trust as are the cliff stretches on both sides of the strand. The walk down the valley on a morning in late May was a delight and served to remind us of what we value the National Trust for — not the preservation of prestige property which may be visited for a gawp, but for the conservation of threatened natural environments. The trust's ownership of cliff lengths in Cornwall has been particularly valuable, given the ever present threat of yet another caravan park. Across the valley, on the eastern side, against a background of continual birdsong, a woodpecker sounded intermittently. The bluebell carpet gave enough scent in the air to be noticeable to even a long-term pipe-smoker, but the blue was complemented by the red of ragged robin, the white of stitchwort and the yellow of buttercup. Elsewhere, valerian was at its finest, varying in colour

through the infinite gradations of brick red to terracotta. We turned west on the coastal path to return to Portscatho. In rapid succession we saw a family of cormorants with this year's chick, a heron in the rock pools, stonechats atop the gorse bushes, and a kestrel quartering the cliffs for a late breakfast. The previous day we had walked the stretch around Zane Point and St Anthony's Head, because from here seals are often visible offshore. A northerly airstream was ruffling the surface of the water at the entrance to Carrick Roads and no seals appeared. Later in the day, however, a bear bobbed up in the harbour at Portscatho with a friend further offshore. The seals gave their usual impression of being as interested in the activities of the human bipeds ashore as we were in them. Although not as warm as it often is by this stage of the year a swim proved possible as the high tide lapped on Porthcurnick Beach. COLIN LUCKHURST

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Diary Matthew Norman

CURIOUS conflict of interests plagues Tom Nice-But-Dim Sackville, the junior Home Office minister. The West London Synagogue, where Hugo Gryn is Rabbi, wants to dig up an ancestral tomb in the Jewish cemetery in Dalston, East London, to a housing developer...

MEANWHILE, another planning permission controversy pokes its tongue at party boy Polly Portillo. His constituency association in Enfield Southgate is selling its HQ, a large Edwardian house, to McDonald's...

BLOW to Mr Tony Blair, the Cavalier Von Trapp of British paternity, comes in this week's Spectator. Describing his night-time activities, sane and rational Paul Johnson - Mr Blair's leading groupie - writes: "On Sunday night, I dreamed the general election returned a Labour majority of 212..."

By a nice piece of symmetry, we take our leave of Major. Major today at the exact point that the Diary first met. Major-Bail a year ago; he has been mysteriously followed home from the New Zealand genome conference by a gnome with a hedgehog...

BURGULARY trial to Fayetteville, north Carolina, collapsed this week when juror Melien Benedict told the court that it was quite unnecessary for him to hear so much as a single word of evidence...



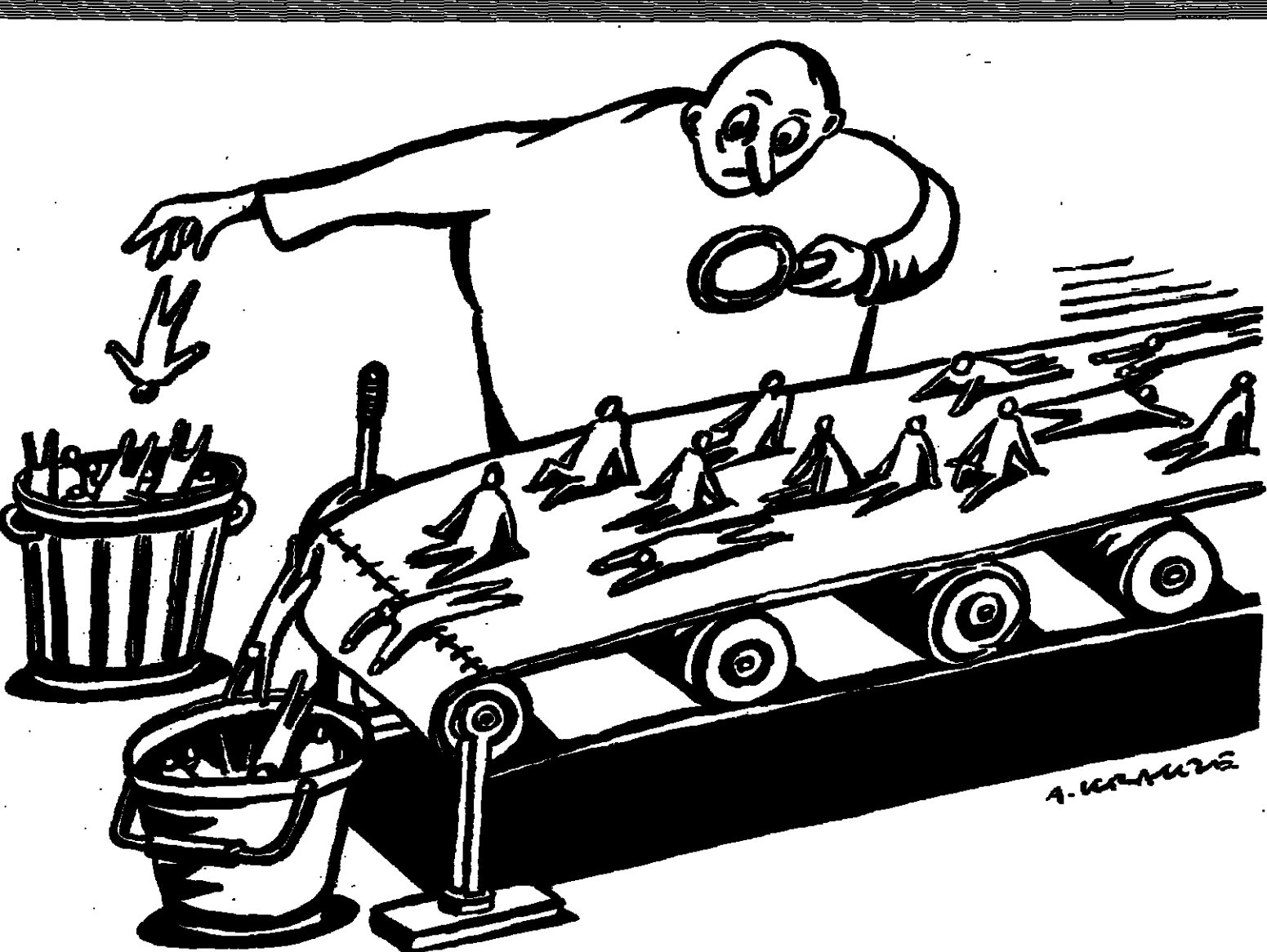
Who would a quota hopper be?

Commentary Peter Preston

THE dish of the day is fish. And Mr Tim Renton, I guess, would like it served plain and simple, maybe grilled with a little lemon. Mr Renton, along with 23 other Tory Commons colleagues, has just tabled an early-day motion deploring the increasing non-seriousness of Britain's serious press...

which is where the trouble starts and headily continues. Why, for instance, wasn't Renton on his feet in the House on Wednesday night saying a kind word or two for quota hoppers? Some words, an adjective and a noun in conjunction, come with an automatic curl of the lip attached. Try "gun lobby". Or "child molester". Or, now, quota hopper. Twenty MPs spoke in that fishing debate. Not one of them had anything but hopping madness to discharge. In short form: Britain is apparently being asked to cut its fishing fleet - "in parts" - by "up to" 40 per cent. The qualifying phrases in quotes are those used by Tony Baldry, the relevant agriculture minister. They are not, of course, suitable headline material. Meanwhile, it has been floridly discovered that 150 or so ex-British boats, with their catch quotas, have been bought up by Dutch and Spaniards. In "some" fishing sectors (no another great disappearing qualification) that can be as much as 20 per cent of what's available. Mr Baldry puffedly denounces "a crazy situation that cannot be allowed to continue". Let's strip that down. The European Union, you may remember, is a single market. That is what Mr Baldry's Government says it wants: a free market in goods, manpower and services. If, after the election, a jobless Baldry wishes to retire and grow tulips in Holland, wine in France or oranges in Spain, he can do so without Brussels let or hindrance. And, given the beneficence of the CAP, he'll collect EU and national subsidies along the way. If he wants to run a bar in Torremolinos or a croissant factory in Toulouse, the right and entitlement arrives even more simply. It would be intolerable if it didn't - and Whitehall would be the first to say so. Fish is a bit different, but only a bit. The difference - by common consent - is that there are too many boats chasing too few fish. If there are no catch restrictions, there will shortly be no fish left to catch. The precise Canadian bind. Harry Lime knew all about rats. They can be captured, or they can be sold. They are a secondary form of currency. In the old EU days of milk scarcity, milk quotas were bargained between interested parties for cash. But now fish is the only suitable case for such treatment. If a country has a catch quota, and that quota is vested in a designated fleet of vessels, then it can be sold as easily as a bar in Amsterdam. Nothing illegal, nothing underhand. Single marketers, applying their own principles, would surely not have it any other way. Unless, of course, they were MPs for fishing constituencies or ministers in a very fishy Government. Nobody, on Wednesday night, asked the one, inescapable question, if the Dutch and the Spaniards have shamefully bought 150 of "our boats", who sold them in the first place? Inescapable answer: we did. Our gallant protesting lads did the deal and banked the cheques. The "quota hoppers", in reality, are willing buyers from willing sellers - who just have to round and manage to their Members. Were Mr Baldry actually to deal with this "crazy situation", they'd be organising quayside demos declining to give the money back. And the true situation, on examination, becomes crazier still. The average British trawler is 25 years old. Antique by European standards. Countries which take fishing seriously - by investment rather than obfuscation - have moved into a different era. Dutch fishermen don't have our "discard" problem. Don't have to throw dead fish beyond their quotas back into the sea. Their technology helps them not to catch the wrong fish in the first place. Countries which take fishing seriously have seen that the boats are only the start of the industry and invested hundreds of millions in the processing and distribution plants on shore which provide thousands of jobs. Go to Brabant, then go to Vigo. Compare the dereliction and the bustle. Compare the drive and the determination and the professionalism. We could quota hop to Spain if we wanted. But our boats are too small and too poor for the trip. We could upgrade our fleet if we wanted. But the Treasury won't match the European cash on offer. We could stop or restrain quota hopping itself at the flick of a pen. (A mandatory English captain and first mate: a crew paying National Insurance: a requirement to land a proportion of the catch in Britain itself. You remember "subsidiarity"? We prefer merely to whinge and bluster and threaten. I'm sure Mr Renton agrees. But he wasn't around. He and we will just have to hope that a touch of rationality arrives in the end with the tomato ketchup. After all, as a Mori poll the other day revealed, 69 per cent of Times readers - overwhelmingly the young and the business - want us at the heart of Europe, whatever the editor says. Readers aren't dead fish either. Sooner or later, with a little help, they'll gut the garbage.

If there are no catch restrictions, there will shortly be no fish left to catch. The precise Canadian bind



Don't blame the genes

Steve Jones argues that a combination of idle reporters and arrogant scientists has fuelled an unnecessary public fear of genetic manipulation

THE left has an impressive ability to lie to itself. When faced with facts that conflict with ideology, the easy way out is to deny the facts. This was long the case in economics; but although there are no doubt a few who still regard the New Economic Plan as a betrayal, in general realism has prevailed. There are not many Guardian readers left who believe that Japan's problems arise because it did not follow the path pursued by Albania. In science, though, self-delusion is still in charge. For genetics in particular, truths must be disowned because they are embarrassing. Racists are evil people who believe in immutable differences between groups; ergo, no such difference can exist. Crime, as the whole world knows, results from inequality. Any suggestion that biology is involved must be, by definition, wrong. Because Hitler wished to improve the human race by selective breeding, genetics is a Nazi science whose every move is part of a seditious plot. Recently I took on human genetics. It was greeted by barking from both ends of the political spectrum. To some, neglecting to write one's name the requisite number of times whenever the word "gene" is heard is a heinous crime; to others it is an equal affront to suggest that biology might limit free will. The worst outrage of all is to hint that there is no conspiracy, that research is done to help the afflicted or for curiosity. Public ignorance of what is really going on resides in two complementary facts: the idleness of reporters and the arrogance of scientists. Scientists are notoriously bad at disclosing the truth, but in its futile quest for a hidden agenda that is not there, the press is missing much of the point. Take the question of genetic differences between groups. Much though it might exasperate the Gene Pool Relations Board, such differences exist and I see nothing wrong in using the word "race" to describe them. What is more, the ability to do well in IQ tests runs in families, and American blacks have an average score 15 points lower than do whites. The Edinburgh Buffon, Chris Brand, recently revived the ancient smear that this must be due to genes and is hence unalterable. Substitute "blood pressure" for "intelligence" and his error is obvious. High or low blood pressure runs in families (indeed, one of the genes involved was isolated this month). In America, middle-aged black men score about 15 points higher than whites. Although the figures are similar to those for IQ, the response is oddly different: racial divergence, most say, is due to the environment - to poor diet or to smoking. This can be (and has been, with much success) changed.

For blood pressure it seems obvious that inheritance within groups is irrelevant to divergence between them; for IQ there is a curious readiness to accept that such differences are due to genes. The evidence on its own supports neither idea (although at least the environmentalists have some experiments to try). All this is more interesting than a sterile debate about who is a racist. Rather than concentrate on Brand's elementary mistake, though, the fuss was about whether his book should be published. Take, too, the "gene for crime". Half the 60,000 genes that make a human being are switched on in the brain. Most genes mutations are found that influence behaviour. In one - and only one - Dutch family a single change interferes with nerve transmission. Almost everyone who has it has been in trouble. Schizophrenia, too, often leads to skirmishes with the law. It is now clear that some cases are due to damage to genes. It is only a matter of time before a genetic test is used in court. Most geneticists have no problem with the research - which, in spite of endless argument about crime as a social construct, is no more perplexing than studying other characters (such as blood pressure or IQ) that involve both nature and nurture. The interesting question, though, is not in the science but in how it is interpreted. It seems natural that an inborn disposition to crime (or, for that matter, to heart disease) should lead to forgiveness. That, though, is not the only possible response. In the 1930s a German geneticist claimed to have found a gene shared by many male homosexuals. The response of the Nazis was simple: sterilise them. That of the German Socialist Medical Association was equally straightforward: homosexuality is under the control of free will and should no longer be illegal. Whatever their ethical merits, both views make logical sense. In the United States, too, genes are appealed to both in mitigation and in blame. One murderer in Georgia is trying to escape the chair on the grounds that he has an inherited predisposition to crime. In Texas, though, the law has changed to ensure that those who might pose "an enduring threat to society" (that is, those with bad genes) are executed.

AGAIN and again the story is the same. It is not contentious but how it is used. Why should DNA be the only chemical immune from patent protection? It is unfair that genes from cancer patients be taken by vast corporations without donors getting a penny. But the best protection for those with interesting DNA is to get a good lawyer before someone else does; it's not whether the gene should be patented, but who owns the patent. And - in spite of the hype about genetic engineering - the baby is still to send him to Eton. The new anti-genetics has an odd resonance from an earlier age when, inflamed by the true faith, Stalin denied the right of the subject itself to exist. So firm was his belief in the primacy of opinion that Lysenko - the scum of Soviet political correctness - was hired to ensure that DNA be abolished. The purge against reality was announced in 1948. What caused hunger was not a collapse of collective farms but science. "It is high time to realise that today our Morganist-Mendelists are in effect making common cause with the international reactionary force of the bourgeoisie." Not only of the immutability of genes but also of the immutability of the capitalist system... Geneticists have done us tremendous harm. We must now finally and irrevocably take this reactionary and unscientific theory down from its pedestal. I am fully convinced that if we guide ourselves by the only correct theory, the theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, and take advantage of the tremendous care and attention which the genius of Stalin bestows upon men of Science, we shall undoubtedly be able to cope with this task. Well aware of the fate of dissidents, several geneticists read out a letter of apology: "Glory to the Great Stalin, the leader of the people and the coryphaeus of progressive science!" Their retraction caused "stormy, prolonged and mounting applause and cheers. All rise". Nowadays Stalin himself is denounced. Biology, though, is still in the firing line. Any report that has the temerity to consider science just a science is immediately reported to the great Party Congress of public opinion. Faced with the new Lysenkoism it is worth remembering that the moral issues lie not in genetics, but in the agenda of those who use it; and that liberation lies not in denying science, but in understanding what it is trying to do. Steve Jones is professor of genetics at University College London. His book, In The Blood, is published by HarperCollins (£20).

How to make sense of the week's news



LET'S be clear about this. First, let's examine the job of the columnist with her finger on the pulse of current affairs. The columnist's job is to weave different news strands together and by doing so to knit a comprehensive view of the zeitgeist (love that word). Then she must step back and take a long, hard look at the great big woolly tangle she has created from this always hectic, often barbaric, loose-fitting thing we call "news". This Friday - and let's face it, Friday is Belday for many millions of readers of this paper we all love - I'm going to start by turning my focus on the Ariane space-rocket disaster. In one swift burst, 11 years of hard graft by international scientists went up in smoke. Has space travel a future? Are we devoting too little time as a nation to harnessing the skills of our young scientists? As Malyra's guest on Start The Week this Monday, I was brave enough to suggest that an answer to this question must surely lie in our attitude to the behaviour of the English soccer team on that Cathay Pacific jet. Unnamed members of the English soccer team caused £5,000 worth of damage - and this in a week when David Cronsburg's controversial new film Crash depicts, in horrifying detail, the kind of damage that cars can cause to human beings. But what kind of damage can we do to our own bodies? We've got to face up to it. Vogue magazine has come under pressure from advertisers to stop glamorising anorexia by showing photographs of young girls with eating disorders. At the same time a new book claims that the Duchess of Windsor - who once said you can never be too rich or too thin - was a bloke. It makes you think, my god it does, and it becomes all the more pertinent this week, when another discarded Royal Duchess - and here I'm talking about the one-time Sarah Ferguson - has revealed that she is now taking responsibility for her own life under the aegis of her new self-help guru, Michael Rowland. As far as I know, Sarah has yet to comment publicly on the Ariane space-rocket disaster, but if she's heard the news that Tony Blair, the leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, has admitted to smack-whip his children, then she'll already know that, as many single mothers have already discovered, life is a thing that can sometimes get out of hand. But does this make it any more justifiable for the IRA to refuse to decommission their stockpile of weaponry until an agreed settlement has been reached? I raised this important question on Start The Week with fellow guest Paula Yates, who has been suffering from her very own worries about an agreed settlement in her divorce proceedings with her ex-husband, Bob Geldof. Let's be clear. Paula has strong views on the future of the Northern Ireland peace process, while at the same time remaining sceptical about Sara Thornton's claims that she cannot be held responsible for killing her husband. We are living through an era when, as we saw from yesterday's news, a man is free to set up a gun club in London's Little Venice, but a woman will still be denounced in no uncertain terms by the tabloid press if she finds herself pressurised into taking a knife to her sleeping husband in order to make him less dysfunctional. The scientists tell us that it was this very dysfunctionality in the computers guiding the Ariane space rocket that caused it to explode, scattering the hopes and dreams of hundreds if not thousands of people to the winds. With Princess Diana creating such a stir in the notoriously hard-hearted city of Chicago, now should be the time to examine the Government's paltry record on another type of explosion, namely the explosion in the use of automatic handguns. Will the curfew on 10-year-olds proposed by my good friend Jack Straw really be enough to reduce such repercussions of a violent society as the shocking behaviour we witnessed from the England football team? GAZZA has now become the personification of the zeitgeist, along with Rod Richards MP, Bart Simpson and film star Robert Redford (in town this week). But if Gazza is, as Terry Venables claims, well and truly repentant, and really does intend to do something about improving the quality of air-flight, then the Ariane space project must surely be given a second chance. And so where, if I may be permitted to ask, does this leave Peter Phillips, the son of Princess Anne? Today, he may face questioning by police over a fight with local youths. To his credit, Paddy Ashdown is seeking to reduce the conflict between rich and poor with radical new income-tax proposals. Let us hope that some of this money can be channelled towards a Northern Ireland peace protest that will take into account the effect of violent films on the English football team, paving a fresh way ahead for the likes of Sara Thornton and the EEC. Yup, it's as simple as that.

Base Rate Yorkshire Bank announces that with effect from start of business on 7th June 1996 its Base Rate is reduced from 6.00% to 5.75% Yorkshire Bank 20 Merrion Way, Leeds LS28NZ



Peter Fletcher

# A teacher of note

PETER FLETCHER, who has died of cancer aged 60, was an innovative and controversial musical educator, conductor and writer.

Four years at Cambridge as organ scholar at Jesus College, where he studied with Geraint Jones and Thurston Dart, were followed by his national service as conductor of the Royal Signals Orchestra and two years as assistant music director at Uppingham School. From 1962-64 he held the joint post of music adviser to the East Riding of Yorkshire and organist and master of the choristers at Beverley Minster.

Then in 1966, aged 30, he was appointed to the most senior post of his kind as the Inner London Education Authority's staff inspector for music. The range of talents and the multicultural and social backgrounds of London schoolchildren stimulated him to re-think music education. He encouraged primary teachers to foster curiosity about music and toured schools with a van full of instruments.

His concern about the low standards he claimed were

prevalent at some London conservatoires catering for talented schoolchildren led him to found the Centre for Young Musicians (CYM). There he assembled a team of teachers — many of them leading players in London orchestras — to provide intensive training. The CYM has outlived the ILEA.

To enable specialist music education to exist in the public sector, Fletcher initiated a music course at Pimlico School and started a foundation course for 15-16 year-olds at Kingsway-Frithson College for which he helped devise a music double A-level. Perhaps nearest to his heart was the London Schools Symphony Orchestra, which he reorganised and regularly conducted. Conducting and training choirs and orchestras had always been his preferred musical activity. His enthusiasm for new and challenging 20th century music made the LSSO the country's most adventurous youth orchestra and its high standards amazed critics. The orchestra frequently toured abroad and was a wonderful advertisement for what could be achieved by London schoolchildren.

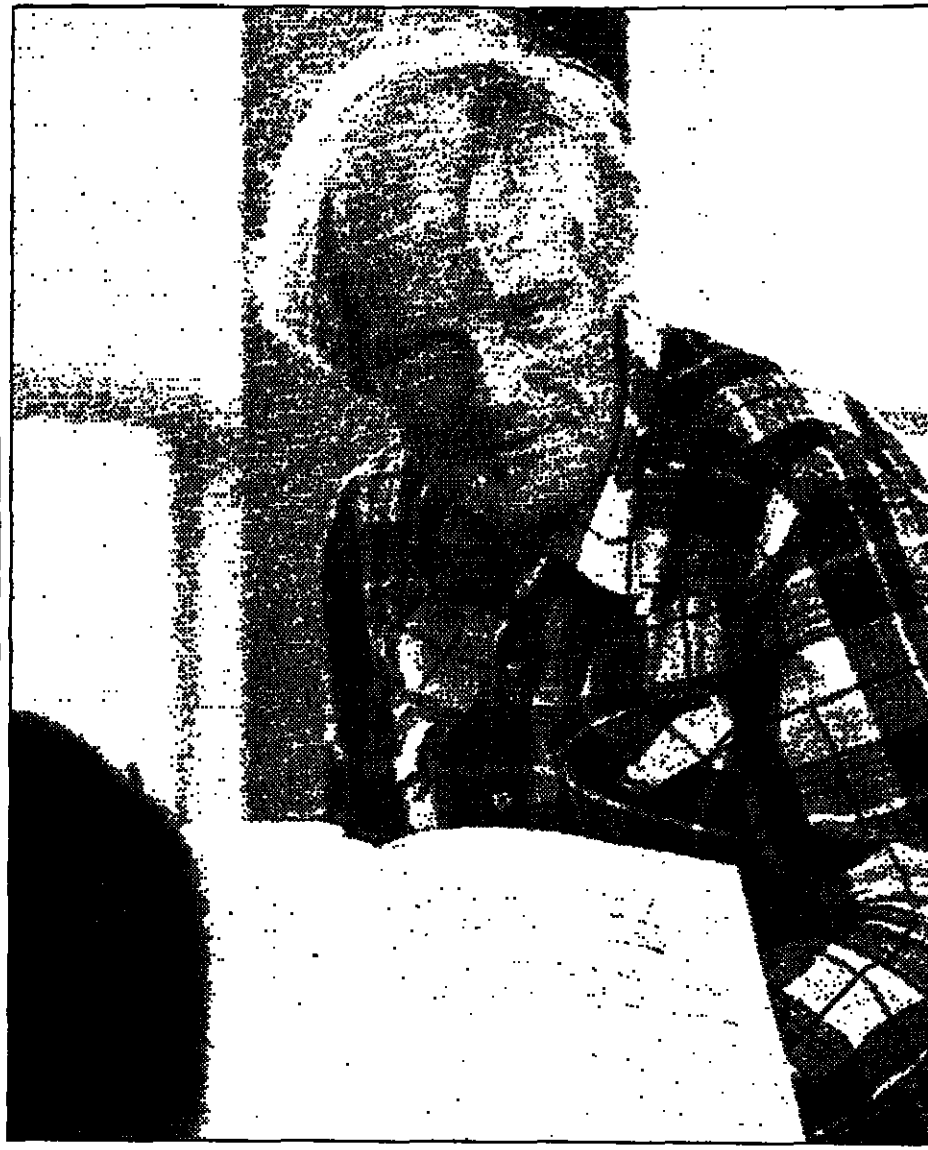
In the ILEA, Fletcher pioneered approaches that have become part of the national curriculum or incorporated in community music activities. An example was his creation of the Cockpit Ensemble, a full-time group of composer-performers that visited schools with instruments and then rudimentary synthesizers.

In 1973 he became head of music at Canada's Dalhousie University. During the next four years he designed degree courses and conducted the Dalhousie Choral and Opera East. His history course, in which he discussed and played classical, pop, folk and world music, attracted classes of 250 students and formed the basis of his first book, *Roll over Rock*.

He came back to England in 1974 as principal music adviser for Leicestershire. The Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra — the "other" LSSO — had already gained a national reputation. Fletcher widened its repertoire to include newly commissioned works, schoolchildren's compositions and 20th century works, particularly by Ives and Tippett. He revitalised the Leicestershire School of Music, founded the Leicestershire Choral and directed Loughborough's international singing weeks.

In 1984 he became principal of the Welsh College of Music and Drama. Fletcher considered his musical instincts to be near-infallible but, although he was generally right, he was always impatient to get things moving. For Fletcher the way to understand music was through performance and the system should offer relevant teaching.

In Leicestershire, with its large Asian population, he had become interested in Indian music and travelled to the subcontinent to study it. This developed into a consuming interest in world



Fletcher... his reforming zeal as musical educator led to controversy

educationally right has clashed with current education reasoning, he wrote. For Fletcher the way to understand music was through performance and the system should offer relevant teaching.

Several students from poor

music. During his last years he left his Welsh mountain cottage for Asia, Africa and the Americas, sometimes working professionally, sometimes travelling rough, and the result was his comprehensive *World Music in Context*.

He planned his last weeks so that he could complete the book and conduct the *B Minor Mass* in Leicester and the *Verdi Requiem* in Exeter just days before his death.

Asian backgrounds have pursued higher studies in music through Fletcher's own generosity and many music professionals have cause to be grateful to him for sharing in their school years his enthusiasm for making music. He is survived by two sons.

John Hoster

Peter Fletcher, music teacher, born January 9, 1936; died May 21, 1996

Eric Davidson

# Writer with roar talent

ERIC DAVIDSON, who has died aged 65, was one of the premier scriptwriters of the golden age of television light entertainment. Working concurrently with the BBC and ITV, he provided the comedy greats of the time with superlative material both in patter, form and sketches.

Eric did not just write and deliver sketches; he attended all rehearsals and recordings, urging (and arguing) that his words should be performed exactly as written. Otherwise (in a phrase he coined) "they won't get the roar". He was so often proved right that performers trusted his judgment implicitly.

Eric was one of seven children and the eldest of five from his mother's second marriage. From the age of eight he looked after his younger siblings. After Star Road School, Fulham, where he was head boy, he won a scholarship to grammar school but his family could not afford the uniform.

He had a succession of jobs until National Service. Here he excelled at football and cricket, which became life-long interests. After demob, Eric became a buyer at the Hyde Park Hotel and wrote comedy lines and short stories in his spare time.

I recall vividly Eric's first meeting with Roy Hudd in 1969. When Eric turned up for the meeting in a pub off Trafalgar Square, Roy and I ignored him in his charcoal grey suit, sombre tie and glasses. We were looking out for some sort of beatnik. His writing, however, was highly thoughtful, original and incisive.

His first break came through a Tommy Steele radio show. Newcomer though he was, he soon showed his combative spirit and Tommy succumbed gracefully. By 1963 he had given up his day job.

His first television break was *The Illustrated Weekly Hudd*. Time passed and his output became more and more prodigious. The Hyde Park Hotel became a world away and he embraced the camaraderie of showbusiness eagerly.

His total commitment to the shows he worked on (most recently, all the Des O'Connor series) was a wonder to behold and his forthright and honest criticism of performers and producers alike made him a legend in TV studios and the most desirable of scriptwriters to have around.

As light entertainment wound down in favour of chat and quiz shows, Eric witnessed the sad demise of the TV sketch show but there was



Davidson... belly laughs

always enough call on his services to keep him occupied. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, and five children.

Morris Azz

Roy Hudd writes: Eric Davidson was a writer of belly laughs — "roars", as he used to call them. Not for him the cold, cynical "knock". He believed comedy should be fun, clever and, like Sir George Robey, honestly vulgar.

I first met him through an advert in *The Stage*, I, who had been in the business all of two years, advertised for "new material from an established writer for a brilliant new comic". Eric, having never written for anyone, replied and, in blissful ignorance, we started working together.

We wrote all my early *Workers' Playtime* spots and dozens of summer show sketches for Brandon & Pound's *Out of the Blue* and Frank Adey's *Ocean Revue*. He wrote lots of stand-up spots and sketches for the TV series *The Illustrated Weekly Hudd* and soon left me way behind.

In spite of my amateur fumbling, his material shone through and soon everyone was after him. Cliff Richard and the Shadows, Billy Dainty, Terry Scott and Hugh Lloyd, Ted Rogers, Mike Yarwood and Des O'Connor, all relied on Eric's unerring instinct. He never disappointed. His words were always delivered on time and fitted whoever he was writing for like a glove.

Caring, professional, enthusiastic purveyor of comedy are a rare breed. Eric was one par excellence.

Eric Davidson, comedy scriptwriter, born May 19, 1931; died May 20, 1996



La Rue... a whip-crackin' hero in black

RONALD GRANT COLLECTION

Al 'Lash' La Rue

# King of the bullwhip

T O SOME people, films called *Mark the Lash* and *Black Lash*, starring "Lash" La Rue, might evoke a sado-masochist fantasy but to hordes of kids who attended 1940s Saturday morning movie matinees a very different picture is conjured up. Al "Lash" La Rue, who has died aged 78, was a cowboy hero who wielded a lft bullwhip to humble villains in a dozen or so B westerns. He was, as the title of his 1951 film proclaims, *King of the Bullwhip*.

Born Albert La Rue in Louisiana, he worked as a real estate agent before getting bit parts in films. La Rue, who claimed he had been turned down by the big studios because of his resemblance to Humphrey Bogart, was eventually given his chance by PRC, a Poverty Row studio, in *Sea of Old Wyoming* (1945), in which he was the evil Cheyenne Kid, a classic heavy dressed in black. La

Rue reforms in the end and never played a baddie again, although he retained the black outfit.

In most of his films, the longest being the 73-minute *Outlaw Country* (1949), La Rue portrayed a tough US marshal, supported by his ever-faithful grizzled deputy Al "Fuzzy" St John. Although the plots often scraped the bottom of the gunbarrel, it was always a thrill to see "Lash" unfurl his long leather whip to separate a man from his gun. The fact that he seldom had time for action nor did he hold up the action to croon soppy songs, like his more famous contemporaries, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, made him a favourite among the rowdier youngsters in the audience.

When B pictures were phased out, La Rue tried his hand in a TV series, *Lash of the West* (1952-53), using footage from his old movies. It

ran for one season only, so the whip-crackin' cowboy took his act on the road, appearing with circuses, carnivals and Wild West shows, before falling on hard times. In 1966, he was arrested for vagrancy, with only 35 cents in his pocket. Happily, he found his feet again through TV character parts and guest appearances at nostalgic film clubs around the country, still wearing his black shirt and cowboy boots.

Reputed to have been married at least 10 times and to have fathered many children, La Rue had no regrets about his life. "How could any kid who grew up wanting to be a cowboy not enjoy being Lash La Rue? It was a dream come true."

Ronald Bergan

Al "Lash" La Rue, cowboy actor, born June 15, 1917; died May 21, 1996

Jimmy Rowles

# Magician to the stars

JIMMY ROWLES, who has died aged 77, was a subtle, laconic and all-but-psycho pianist who elevated the art of creative jazz accompaniment to the status of a minimalist wonder of the world.

His reputation spread beyond the cognoscent late in his long playing life. Supporting musicians in the shadows behind the soloist don't usually inspire much more than shrug-talk among knowledgeable fans. But Rowles was different. The city of Los Angeles often declared September 14 Jimmy Rowles Day. He was the kind of accompanist who made every kind of soloist — usually singers, in his case — sound better, even the great ones.

This conclusion was easy to establish in Rowles's case, as he worked with almost all the great ones. Billie Holiday, Peggy Lee, Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald were devoted to his playing and sought him out. He worked with Carmen McRae and Tony Bennett, and accompanied such legendary instrumentalists as Stan Getz. He made things happen that altered the course of a performance without the audience and sometimes the stars, knowing quite why the change in momentum or mood had occurred. Rowles seemed to merely breathe on his materials and they changed colour.

Rowles's music surfaced, obliquely, on the British jazz scene last year. London singer Norma Winstone had written her own lyrics to Rowles's composition *The Peacocks* and sent them on spec to the veteran pianist. Rowles liked her version but negotiating a recording date wasn't easy. Rowles's emphysema prohibited leaving the California sun but the singer responded "All right, I'll come to you" and

covered the costs herself. (There was also a surrealistic aspect to the session because Rowles's condition obliged everybody in the studio to wear face-masks.) The result was one of the best recordings of Winstone's life.

Rowles's inspirations were the playing of the great swing pianist Teddy Wilson and the writing of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. He also sang occasionally, though he memorably described his voice as sounding "like a canoe being dragged across a road".

He began playing as a college freshman and in 1940 joined vaudevillean jazzman Slim Gaillard's group and later became part of a group led by Lester Young and his brother Les. In 1941 he worked with Billie Holiday and Ben Webster and over the next two years with the orchestras of Benny Goodman and Woody Herman, joining Tommy Dorsey and eventually Bob Crosby after military service.

In the 1960s, Rowles's increasingly encyclopaedic knowledge and apparently infallible memory for the har-

monies of songs led him to more lucrative studio work for film and TV, and he joined Henry Mancini's successful jazz-fused orchestra, which he stayed with for 20 years.

He moved to New York in 1973 and performed regularly with saxophonists Al Cohn and Zoot Sims, becoming a regular on the New York jazz scene and recording occasionally, making a highly regarded album with Stan Getz featuring his classic *The Peacocks* in 1977. Further albums in the 1980s showed that his powers weren't waning. They also introduced the excellent bopish trumpet playing of his daughter Stacy.

Rowles's art isn't one that many jazz pianists today would find the need to learn with the same relish for understatement and self-effacement that he did, but he exuded musicianship with every barely-struck note.

John Fordham

Jimmy Rowles, musician, born August 19, 1918; died May 28, 1996



Rowles... made even the greats sound better DAVID REDFERN

Jackdaw



and floored the accelerator pedal with a deft trotter. The pig then went on a two-mile trail of destruction, wrecking eight cars and hospitalising 13 people before crashing into a church. Police are looking for a driver with very short legs and a belly touching the ground who can only communicate in loud grunts.

Road rage spreading to the Continent, reported in BSH.

Road hog

YOU thought you'd met some bad drivers? Well, just be glad you don't live in Vetran, Bulgaria, where residents were recently terrorised by a pig-smout, trotters and everything — driving a 10-ton truck. The trouble began when farmer Michael Craznich left his engine running while loading produce in the back. As he hefted carcasses in, 200lb porker Mr. Snouty, attracted by the delicious scent of pistachio nuts waiting down from the cash board, climbed into the cab, where, in his struggle to scuff the nuts, he knocked off the handbrake, selected first gear

and floored the accelerator pedal with a deft trotter. The pig then went on a two-mile trail of destruction, wrecking eight cars and hospitalising 13 people before crashing into a church. Police are looking for a driver with very short legs and a belly touching the ground who can only communicate in loud grunts.

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per cent of the beans.

● Drink a gallon of water. Do not go to the bathroom for 24 hours, or go to the bathroom every 3-5 minutes with no regard to the "amount" you have deposited. Either way you will have a good sense of what bloating is like. To discover how the nights feel...

1. Walk around the living room from 5pm to 10pm carrying a wet bag weighing approximately 8-12 pounds, with a radio turned to static (or some other obnoxious sound) playing loudly.  
2. At 10pm, put the bag down, set the alarm for midnight and go to sleep.  
3. Get up at 12 and walk around the living room again, with the bag, until 1am.  
4. Set the alarm for 3am.  
5. As you can't get back to sleep, get up at 2am and make a drink.  
6. Go to bed at 2.45am.  
7. Get up at 3am when the alarm goes off.  
8. Sing songs in the dark until 4am.  
9. Put the alarm on for 5am.  
10. Get up, make breakfast.

Keep this up for five years. Look cheerful. Dressing small children is not as easy as it seems:

1. Buy an octopus and a small bag made out of moss mesh which you can put the octopus into the bag so that none of the arms hangs out. Time allowed for this — all morning. Taking a long trip with your toddler: Make a recording of Fran Fine (the nanny) saying "Mommy" repeatedly. IMPORTANT: ● No more than... four-second delay between each "Mommy" ● Occasional crescendo to the level of a supersonic jet is required. Play this tape in your car everywhere you go for the next four years. Talking to an adult of your choice... Have someone tug on your: ● skirt hem ● shirt sleeve, or ● elbow whilst playing the tape made above. You are now prepared to have a conversation with an adult with a child in the room.

Advice to consider before jumping into the parental scene. Online at <http://take.southcoo.k12.mn.us/pki/html/pfp/>

Earwig

IT IS NOT that Tobin disagrees with Jones on certain essentials (Prog and toad = cold; taters [in the mould] = rod; skin [and blister] = sister, and so on); nor does Tobin deny the right of Jones to be inventive in his slang — this is part of the game. (Jones reckons Salford docks = rocks, though Salford is a long way from Wapping.) But there are some locations that Tobin can't take: Pimple (and blotch) for scotch; Tobin's always said gold watch. He never uses salmon (and trout) to mean stout, but goat. Nor does he like weasel (and stoat) for coat, preferring nanny goat. As for tea pot lid for yid, this is inadmissible in the best company; it should be front wheel skid (or simply 4x2, four by two). Nor is sausage (and mash) cash; no, sausage is flash, as in "flash geezer" And Tobin's acquaintances

in the used-car trade refer to them not as jam-jars but as haddock and bloater.

Dot Wordsworth in *The Spectorator* brings Jack Jones's new book *Rhythmic Cockney Slang*, to the attention of Mr Mick Tobin (an expert in the field), whose initial reactions were "Old up, who is this?" when he was confronted with the mistakes above. Proving that anyone who wants to make consistent sense of the rabbit (and pork) down the rub-a-dub



Spectorator... cobblers

is going to have to earn his greens [greenages]. Otherwise he'll look a right 'Arry and Billy eyes front.

Suburbia

SO WHAT is Britpop style? Quintessentially English, it's what we've been doing best for years, the art of dressing down, of creating a comfortable uniform that just manages to break the rules but also keeps us in our place. Britpop. Sloppy and unrefined, it bears no resemblance to the American night-mare called grunge. Britpop is a conscious effort to assert one's provincial or suburban roots, one's normality. It's Basil and Bletch, not the council estate brassiness of *The Clash* or the working class groans of Billy Bragg. It's the face of middle England, of the changing landscapes of suburban mores as the political earthquakes continue to rip the last death rattle from the voice of the post-Thatcher Britain. The worst we expect from Britpop is that the youth who listen to it will not

doff their caps to the elders. Scene magazine on the current state of British fashion, that is definitely not causing a scene.

Ralph's shades

ASPEN summit Breakwater white Candelabra white Country stove white Design studio white Dover cliffs Dove white Edwan linen Flower sack white Garden rose white Killington traverse Montauk driftwood Pocket watch white Polo mail white Sneaker white Just a tiny sample of pale shades of white now available in Ralph Lauren's new paint line. Printed in Harpers.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail [jackdaw@guardian.co.uk](mailto:jackdaw@guardian.co.uk); fax 0171-713 4565; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 115 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

Exit with dign... City is way of political motive for cut in interest rates... Econo... High street sales... Retail... Shoppers r... Retailer spots signs of growth, reports Sarah Whitebloom... Lucas temp...

JP 11/10/150



John Mills 1:50

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## City is wary of political motive for cut in interest rates

'Just the morning for a balloon flight over the City of London, Mr Bradford... And a mortgage rate cut too, Mr Bingley'



PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW BLACKMORE

# Economy does the splits

### High street sales strongest since 1988

REVIVING housing market and buoyant consumer confidence are fuelling bumper spring sales on Britain's high streets, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

Coming on the heels of the surprise decision by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to cut interest rates from 6 per cent to 5.75 per cent, the CBI's upbeat picture raised City suspicions that the move was inspired by political concerns.

Alex Garrard, UK economist at the investment bank UBS, said: "If you take this survey with strong consumer credit it does look as if Clarke is turning to lower interest rates to boost the Government's political fortunes."

Undertaking its latest snapshot of retailing, the CBI said both hardware and DIY stores, and furniture and carpet outlets — which rely heavily on a healthy market — reported that sales in May were the strongest since September 1988, at the end of the last boom.

Alastair Epton, chairman of the CBI's Distributive Trades Survey panel, said: "The continued expansion in retail trade for May is welcome as it points to the emergence of a 'feel better' mood among consumers."

Shops and stores reporting better sales than last year outstripped by 29 percentage

points those saying takings were down — slightly less than April's gap of 31 points but still historically high, the CBI said.

Retailers said the survey reflected growing confidence that this upturn would last through the summer, unlike the mini-booms of previous years.

Ruth Partridge, assistant director of the British Retail Consortium, said: "We have seen a definite strengthening

much-needed pick-up in sales last month, although traders still report excessive stocks.

Separate figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed sales at 168,000 vehicles in May, up by 8.5 per cent on the same month last year, following a 17 per cent rise in April.

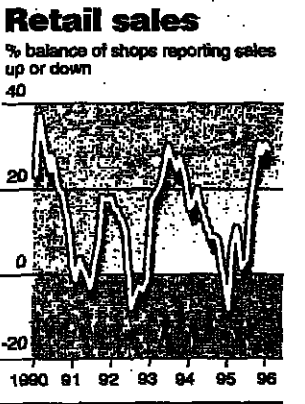
Roger King, SMMT public affairs director, said: "This confirms reports we have been receiving from showrooms that private purchasers are returning to the market." The CBI reported that motor traders were taking on staff to cope with the extra demand.

Erisk takings on the high street have pushed other retailers into the job market in search of new workers, the Distributive Trades Survey — which covers 427 outlets — reported. The gap between the number of shops expecting to take on staff this month and those planning to shed labour is nine points — the highest figure for more than five years.

Retailers were also dusting off investment plans with planned capital expenditure at the highest level since November 1988, the CBI said.

But stronger demand is not feeding through into price tags, according to CBI economists who said inflationary pressure was levelling off.

In part, this is due to the fact that manufacturing is much better documented



The CBI survey also showed car dealers enjoying a

Richard Thomas

### ... but the factories still struggle

INDUSTRY moved swiftly to back the Chancellor's quarter-point cut in base rates yesterday, amid growing fears that the recent rise in the pound would exacerbate the problems faced by exporters.

Manufacturing has been the Cinderella of the economy since autumn last year, with the need to shed excess stocks and the recession in continental Europe combining to depress output.

After rising strongly in 1994, output growth slowed in the first half of 1995 and began to fall towards the end of the year. It has now dropped back to the level of spring 1990, the peak reached just ahead of the recession of the 1980s.

In the 17 years since the Government first came to power, manufacturing production has risen by 11 per cent — or around 0.6 per cent a year on average — the weakest record of the leading industrialised countries. However, the modest growth rate disguises wild gyrations, with rapid growth in the mid- and late 1980s between two deep recessions.

Factory output now accounts for only a quarter of gross domestic product, but it remains hugely influential for monetary policy.

In part, this is due to the fact that manufacturing is much better documented

than the service sector, at 63 per cent of GDP.

But in addition, the strong lobby groups on behalf of manufacturing have found an ally in the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke. As an East Midlands MP, Mr Clarke has made clear that he believes in the need for a strong manufacturing base.

Most analysts believe the pick-up in consumer demand should feed down the supply chain and boost fac-

of British industry, said yesterday: "While domestic demand is already improving and we believe will accelerate this year, manufacturing has been held back by weak export demand."

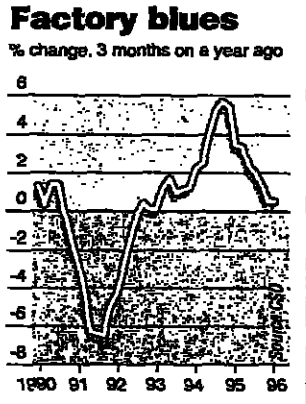
"In this context the recent strength of sterling has emerged as the factor which tipped the balance in favour of this small adjustment."

Ms Barker said the CBI had become keener on a cut in rates over the past fortnight as sterling gained ground, rising to its highest level against the German mark for 15 months.

The CBI's downbeat assessment of manufacturing has been shared by other recent surveys, with both the British Chambers of Commerce and the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) pointing to falling output and weakening price pressure.

The Chancellor used the diminution of factory gate price inflation as one of the main reasons behind the cut. Output prices rose by 3.2 per cent in the year to April, down from 4.5 per cent last summer. This week's PMI reported that even before the pound's rise, trading conditions in manufacturing were the poorest since September 1992.

Kate Barker, chief economist at the Confederation



tory output in the second half of the year, but official sources admitted yesterday that in the past few weeks the gap between the manufacturing and service sectors had widened.

Kate Barker, chief economist at the Confederation

Larry Elliott

## Notebook

### Clarke — test is yet to come



Mark Milner

WHEN his appointment was announced, there were those who raised a quizzical eyebrow at the choice of Kenneth Clarke as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

True, said the doubters, he was a robust debater who would be able to confront political critics of the Government in the wake of the collapse of a policy based on membership of the exchange rate mechanism.

But did he have the capacity for detail to handle this most complex of briefs? Would his perceived penchant for occasionally shooting from the hip unsettle hypersensitive financial markets?

In the event, Mr Clarke has rubbed along pretty well with the City since he moved into No 11 Downing Street in May 1993. His credibility was particularly enhanced a year ago when, in spite of the advice of the inflation hawk in the Bank of England as well as a significant number of economists and commentators, he held out against the idea of raising interest rates.

But if Mr Clarke caught the markets on the hop by doing nothing then, he positively stunned them by his decision yesterday to cut rates — the fourth such downward nudge since the Budget last year.

It is no bad thing for Chancellors to be able to spring the odd surprise. If big financial players become too sure about the direction of policy, the weight of money placed on the basis of such forecasts can be sufficient to make them self-fulfilling. The Bundesbank didn't get where it is today by playing poodle to the markets.

Just as Mr Clarke took the City by surprise by the timing of the cut in borrowing costs, he has left the "betting scribbled" — as one of his predecessors, Nigel Lawson, characterised the City's economic analysts — divided over his motives.

SOME suggest that Mr Clarke's thinking was political. Their argument is that, with consumers spending more, real incomes rising and unemployment falling, there was no need to cut rates.

After all, the increased activity in the high streets and the housing market (the Halifax is now expecting prices to rise by 5 per cent this year, rather than 2 per cent) will inevitably feed through into the manufacturing and construction sectors later this year and early next.

These critics say the Chancellor has decided to cut rates now to accelerate that improvement and capitalise on it in time for the general election next year. On their calculations, the Bank of England is more likely than not to have seen the Chancellor's de-

cision to cut another one quarter of one percentage point from base rates as an unnecessary risk with inflation. The previous cut in rates was seen as an "insurance policy" against the risk of further slowdown. To extend the analogy, the Chancellor has now doubled his premiums on a diminishing risk.

If Mr Clarke was motivated by political considerations, he has reaped an early dividend. The decision of some of the big mortgage lenders to cut home loan costs will underpin the expected recovery in the housing market — itself one of the most important ingredients in the "feel good" factor deemed so essential for electoral success.

Other economists suggest that Mr Clarke may have been concerned by the recent strength of the pound on the foreign exchanges and was worried that its rise in value against the currencies of key trading partners would add further to the pressures on Britain's struggling manufacturing base.

The travails of manufacturing industry are themselves seen as reason enough for a further cut in rates, although the CBI's slightly muted welcome suggests that many in manufacturing industry reckon a pick-up in demand was already in the pipeline.

A more positive assessment would be to take at face value the Chancellor's assertion that the cut does not threaten his inflation target. There is plenty of spare capacity in the economy, enough certainly to allow for several years of above-trend growth without any risk of re-igniting inflationary pressures. Why, then, delay a rate cut?

ONE group likely to be among the most wholehearted in its welcome for the rate cut is Mr Clarke's Treasury advisers, who gather at Burnwood this weekend to sketch some early outlines of the next Budget package.

They may now be able to feel more confident of getting close to the 3 per cent growth target for the economy, with all that means for tax revenues and their forecasts for the public sector borrowing requirement in 1996/97. That in turn would have implications for the amount of room for manoeuvre Mr Clarke may have to cut taxes.

Such considerations, of course, would seem to add strength to those who accuse Mr Clarke of playing politics with the economy. The truth is likely to be more complex. The betting must be that Mr Clarke's motives were a mixture of economic fine-tuning, market opportunism — taking advantage of sterling's rise — and a dash of political calculation.

Yesterday was not the real test of Mr Clarke's credibility, of his willingness to put the wider interests of the economy ahead of narrow party politics. That will come if the latest reaction does prove a cut too far and the economic danger signals start to flash in the run-up to the general election. Mr Clarke will then be judged, and rightly, on his willingness to reverse yesterday's decision, whatever the political cost.

## Shoppers return to Boots

### Retailer spots signs of growth, reports Sarah Whitebloom

EVIDENCE of shoppers spending more was yesterday supported by the Boots chain. "There are growing signs of a recovery in consumer confidence," said chairman Sir Michael Angus after announcing the company's annual results. "This is being reflected in spending within our stores so far this year."

Boots, which was unveiling a 6.1 per cent fall in pre-tax profits, saw its share price rise as City brokers warmly welcomed the company's optimistic forecasts.

Although signs of recovery are also reaching the DIY market, Fads and Do It All, which the firm owns jointly with

WH Smith, suffered last year.

After recent reports that Smith's new chief executive, Bill Cockburn, wants to sell the stationary retailer's half share, Lord Blyth, chief executive at Boots, said he "wouldn't speculate on us taking 100 per cent control".

He said Boots believed that the value of Do It All would be maximised by the continued pursuit of the present strategy.

He conceded that Do It All seemed to provide WH Smith "with rather more difficulties than it does us".

In total Boots reported pre-tax profits of £493.5 million compared with £525.6 million last time when a £96.4 million contribution from its former subsidiary Boots Pharmaceuticals was included.

The company's chemist chain was the star performer in the financial

year, according to Sir Michael.

It turned in sales of \$3.1 billion, a 6.1 per cent increase on last year.

Sales at Halfords were also ahead — by 3.3 per cent to £390.5 million.

Fads and Do It All are involved in rationalisation programmes.

Around 28 Fads outlets are closing per year and there are 44 Do It All sites to go.

Analysts were disappointed that there was no more significant good news for shareholders. Eighteen months ago Boots bought back £508 million of its shares.

The company is now sitting on a sum of about £860 million in cash and it had been hoped that Boots might once again have decided to return some of this to investors.

Lord Blyth said that Boots would choose its time for such a decision.

## New low for home loans

### Mortgages are back to a 1960s level but savers lose, says Teresa Hunter

BRITAIN'S nine million mortgage borrowers are celebrating the cheapest home loans since the mid-Sixties, following yesterday's 0.25 per cent fall in the cost of borrowing. But a return to 1995 interest rates will not be welcomed by savers, who are already suffering painfully low returns.

The Halifax, which responded swiftly to yesterday's cut in bank lending interest by trimming its mortgage rate 0.25 per cent to 6.99 per cent, is currently paying just 2.25 per cent net on £4,000 in a 90-day notice account. Savers needing instant access earn only 2 per cent net.

Britain's biggest building society was unable to say

when saver returns would start to tumble, but warned that they would have to fall in line with the mortgage rate.

Fears about the health of the housing market spurred the Halifax to lower borrowing costs ahead of the summer — traditionally the big house-buying season. Even though house prices are 4.8 per cent higher than a year ago, values could fall again in the autumn — as in 1994 — if the recovery peters out.

Halifax's general manager, David Gilchrist, said: "House prices have risen at the top end and in the middle of the market, but there is no sign of any improvement among

cheaper houses in the first-time-buyer range.

"Many people who bought in the late 1980s are unable themselves to move because they remain trapped by negative equity. But they may also be acting as a deterrent to their peers and younger generations, who show few signs of wishing to buy."

Halifax's new low rate takes effect immediately for new borrowers — but not until August for existing borrowers. Similarly, the Abbey National's new 7.04 per cent rate bites from September 1 for existing borrowers with loans of less than £59,999. Borrowers of £60,000 to £99,999 will pay 6.99 per cent, and loans of more than £100,000 will cost 6.94 per cent.

The Bradford & Bingley slashed its rate to 6.74 per cent and the Northern Rock rate fell to 6.99 per cent.

The Halifax's rapid response followed signs that the supply of houses coming on to the market was drying up.

### What you save

Interest only mortgage assuming a 25-year term

£ at 6.99%	saving
30,000	148.55
50,000	265.05
70,000	381.55
100,000	556.30

## Lucas tempted to offer £400m Varty sweetener

Lucas is thought to be considering a £400 million "sweetener" for shareholders if it is forced to defend its planned takeover of Varty. The move with America's Varty group, close followers of the British automotive components company have indicated

The payment, in the form of a special dividend, would be funded by the sale of the aerospace division.

Lucas, which has seen its £3.2 billion merger with the US car brakes specialist challenged by a potential counter-bid from rival metal-basher BBA, began a fresh set of presentations yesterday on the virtues of the Varty deal.

Jack Fryer, Lucas's direc-

tor of strategic planning, conceded that the aerospace business was not central to making Lucas a "big one" player in the world automotive parts industry. "We will take any action necessary to defend this deal," he said.

Stock market sources were cooled on the idea that BBA, whose fortunes have been revived by the buccaneering American Roberto Quarta

over the past three years, would table an offer for Lucas.

Brokers stressed that despite the size of BBA — which at £1.2 billion is capitalised at little more than half the market value attached to Lucas — it would have little problem raising the funds for such a leveraged attack.

Speculation was growing that BBA might be consider-

ing turning its sights on Varty itself as a means of beefing up its car business, leaving Lucas by the wayside.

City analysts saw a ready buyer for Lucas's aerospace business in the shape of TI Group, which would be in a position to augment the work of its Dowty subsidiary for Boeing with Lucas's experience with Airbus in Europe.

Sources indicated that the

aerospace division was subject to an abortive management buyout attempt 18 months ago, although Lucas would not confirm this.

The aerospace concern is said to have enjoyed a strong profits recovery, leading some to suggest that a merged Lucas/Varty combine might prefer to hold on to the business for a couple of years to strengthen its balance sheet.

## News in brief

### Blenheim bid seen likely

A takeover bid for exhibition and conference organiser Blenheim Group was widely expected last night after the shares leapt a further 10 per cent yesterday following a 20 per cent rise on Wednesday.

United News & Media is the favoured predator, but declined to comment. Blenheim said on Wednesday that it had received an initial approach from an unnamed company.

### Salisbury stores sold

Thirty-nine of the 169 Salisbury luggage stores have been sold for an undisclosed sum, saving 280 jobs after Stephen Hinchliffe's retail empire Facia collapsed last week with debts of £30 million. A spokesman for receiver Grant Thornton said the buyer of the 39 stores, which are dotted around the UK, was Sheffield-based Mister Minit which op-

### Telecom opening

The Government opened the way for other telecom operators to compete with British Telecom and Mercury Communications in the handling of phone calls arriving in or leaving the United Kingdom. It ended the BT/Mercury duopoly of this part of the international calls business, a move which Ofcom director general Don Cruickshank said would remove a regulatory barrier to full competition in the UK market.

### British Energy spur

A discount of 10p a share or a one-for-15 share bonus were announced by the Government yesterday as the incentives for investors in British Energy, the company formed for the flotation of the nuclear industry due to take place next month.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia	1.09	France	7.7825
Canada	2.0625	Germany	2.2650
Cyprus	0.7065	Greece	365.00
Denmark	8.91	Hong Kong	11.86
Finland	7.1950	India	52.5
		Ireland	0.9475
		Israel	5.07
		Italy	2.346
		Japan	14.025
		Netherlands	2.5725
		New Zealand	2.2425
		Norway	9.87
		Portugal	226.00
		Saudi Arabia	6.58
		Singapore	2.13
		South Africa	6.58
		Spain	194.50
		Sweden	10.25
		Switzerland	1.875
		Turkey	116.983
		USA	1.5100

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding India, Nepal and Israel) (shells).



# Barclays managers face huge job cuts

Sarah Whitebloom

**T**HOUSANDS of Barclays bank managers have been told that their jobs are at risk. Managers across the country have been told individually or at group meetings this week that drastic cuts are planned in branch administration. Some were offered redundancy on the spot.

According to the Barclays staff union, Unifi, 30 managers at one meeting were horrified to learn that their numbers were to be reduced to four by 1998.

On a national basis, Unifi said more than 50 per cent of the bank's operations and personal sector managers would lose their jobs, although the union believes that this is a very conservative estimate.

Paul Snowball, Unifi's general secretary, said that the union had been deluged with calls this week from its managerial members. He said: "Some of them just don't know how they're going to go home and tell their families that they may not have a job anymore."

Rob MacGregor, assistant secretary of Unifi, the banking and finance union, said: "We are talking to some of the most experienced managers and clerical staff left in Barclays. It's only the beginning of a new wave of job losses."

Barclays would not give figures for the overall number of managerial job losses it is seeking. In total, the bank said, there were 8,000 managerial level staff in Barclays, but this included managers in

all parts of the UK operation. A bank spokeswoman did say, however, that the planned cuts were "not a new thing". She maintained that the managers had long known in what direction the bank was moving. "It is part and parcel of our existing programme," she said.

Barclays has cut 21,000 jobs since 1990 and has consistently said that more cuts are planned. The bank declined to give figures yesterday for how many staff were to be cut this year. But Unifi said that more than 2,000 people had already been told they had no future with Barclays.

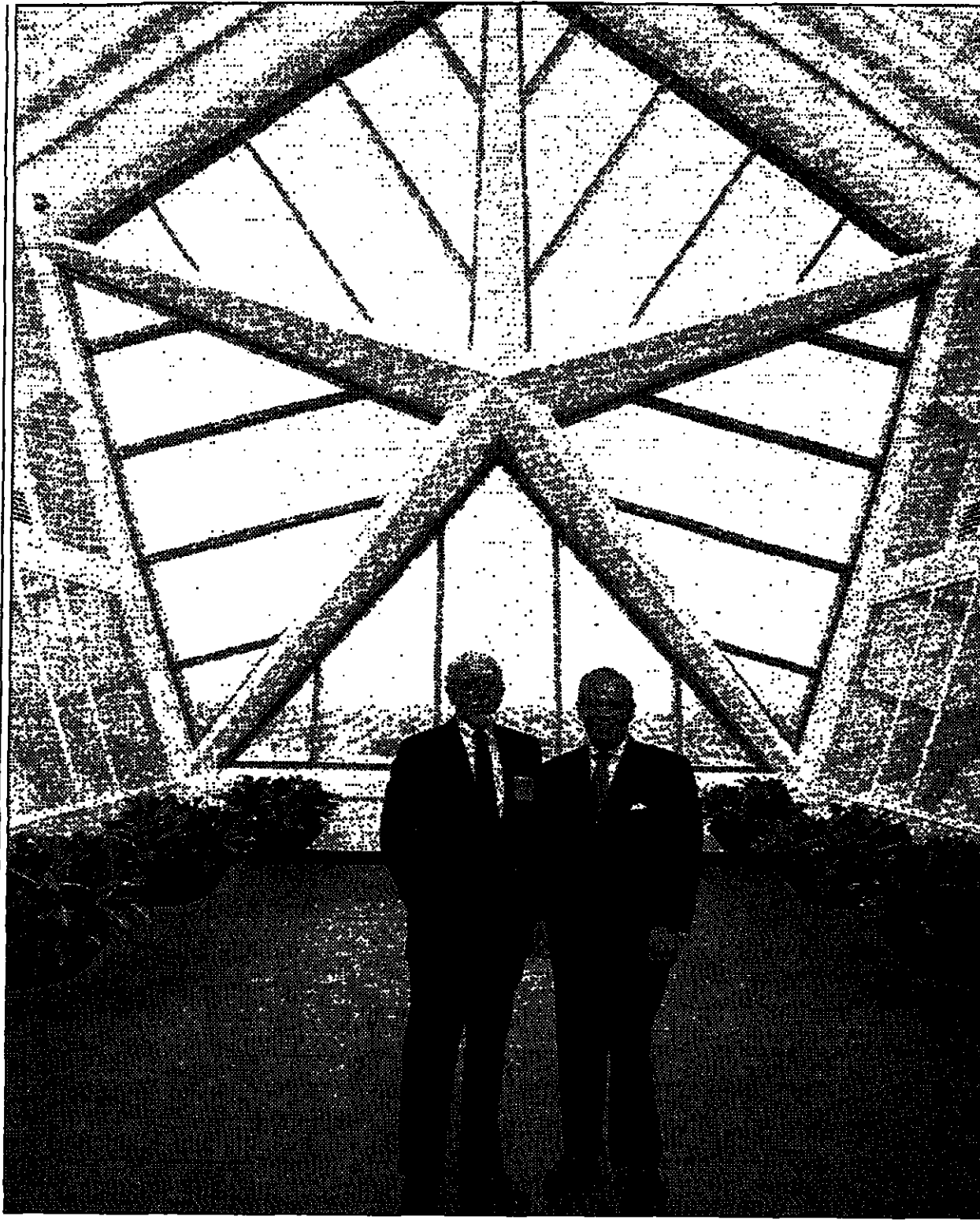
Mr Snowball admitted: "The principle has been known about for some time." But he said that the meetings this week were the first time that managers had been confronted with personal job loss figures.

Bifu said managers had been given various options at the meetings, including "an exit with dignity".

Barclays said it would be running a retraining programme for affected staff, and it was committed to reducing jobs by voluntary means.

The bank said that despite cuts in behind-the-scenes administrative jobs at branches, more staff would be dealing with customers. In 1995, the bank said, it created 1,000 new customer service jobs.

But Unifi rejected suggestions that customer service would be improved, and Mr Snowball said: "If Barclays can treat operations managers in such a cavalier way, who is next? Where are the ethics in this for a business such as Barclays?"



Room at the top... Chrysler chairman Robert Eaton (right) with Robert Stanley, designer of the carmaker's pentastar logo, on the executive level of the group's \$1.5 billion new headquarters in Michigan. PHOTOGRAPH: CARLOS OCHOA

## Results in brief

### 'Healthy Britain' gives fillip to 3i

EUROPE'S largest venture capital company, 3i, has in its first full financial year as a listed company reaped the benefits of Britain's relative economic strength and a strong regional presence. Ewan Macpherson, chief executive, said: "We have benefited from the strength in the UK of small and medium-sized businesses. The bulk of our portfolio is in businesses that cannot go to the market on their own. The evidence we have is that that part of the economy remains healthy."

The group, which not only provides venture capital but also manages investment funds, increased its net asset value per share from 346p to 426p over the year to March 31. 3i invested some £613 million last year in 554 businesses, compared with £539 million in 586 businesses the year before.

The company said that total return on opening shareholders' funds for the year was 25.4 per cent, against a gain of 25.3 per cent for the FTSE All-Share Total Return Index. Shareholders' funds rose from £2.05 billion to £2.53 billion. — Tony May

### Warning from Pilkington

PILKINGTON warned yesterday that it expected its results to continue to be depressed by falls in the price of raw float glass in Europe. After announcing a better-than-expected profit rise of 47 per cent to £212 million — before a £150 million charge for a major restructuring programme — the glass and building materials maker said that falls of up to 30 per cent in the price of raw float glass in Europe had resulted in an 8 per cent reduction in the price of the company's "downstream products" in the European construction market.

The company has an agreement with unions in the US, UK, and Germany, about how to carry out 1,900 job cuts, as part of a previously announced reorganisation. The programme is ahead of schedule.

The group was able to limit the impact of the fall in float glass prices to 8 per cent by changing the mix of sales towards higher-margin value-added products, improved efficiencies and price rises. Early indications were that price rises of 8 to 10 per cent in the European construction market had been accepted by customers. — Tony May

### Sparky Midlands Electricity

COST-cutting and higher profits from the generation and supply of electricity pushed pre-tax profits at Midlands Electricity up by half to £266.6 million on £1.3 billion turnover.

In its last set of results before being bought by Avon Energy Partners, the joint venture formed by two US utilities, Midlands said profits had also been boosted by the sale of its stake in the National Grid and the absence of losses at the Powerhouse Retail chain. Earnings rose 2.3 per cent to £164.5 million adjusted for exceptional items, Powerhouse losses, Grid dividends and the company's special dividend.

The company said 1,064 staff had left in the two years to last March. The generating business turned in an operating profit of £83.3 million, compared with last year's £3.3 million loss. Chairman Bryan Townsend said the total value returned to shareholders since October 1994 was £7.8 million.

Avon, owned by General Public Utilities and Cinergy of the US, declared its £1.73 billion offer for Midlands unconditional yesterday. The company speaks for 71.6 per cent of Midlands shares. Northern Ireland Electricity yesterday announced a 23.7 per cent increase in profits to £107.4 million on £524.7 million turnover. — Chris Barrie

## Medeva collects US assets lost in bid defeat

Tony May

**M**EDEVA, Britain's fourth-largest drug-maker, is paying £250 million to speed expansion in the US by acquiring drug assets from France's Rhône-Poulenc Rorer.

Its purchases include a factory in New York State, formerly the US headquarters of Fisons, and the rights to a clutch of drugs produced there.

These pharmaceutical products generated profits of £9.8 million last year on sales of £64.3 million — something that Bill Bogie, Medeva's chief executive hopes to improve upon.

When Mr Bogie was beaten by Rhône in the bid battle for Fisons, he immediately initiated talks with the victor to try to buy the American plant, which is situated in Rochester.

Rhône, France's largest drugmaker, wanted to sell as part of a debt reduction and product focusing strategy. Mr Bogie said: "We believe the assets will provide the means for driving strong and sustained organic growth in the US, which is already Medeva's largest market."

The Rochester drugs plant specialises in respiratory, diuretic and appetite suppressant products.

Medeva will also acquire rights to patented technology, which controls the release of active ingredients.

Mr Bogie said the Rochester products fitted Medeva's strategy of building a prescription pharmaceuticals company that was not wholly dependent upon its own research for new products.

"We're talking older products and will be regenerating them and generating earnings," he said. "This deal is Medeva's most significant step forward."

He added that the purchase would boost the US share of the group's total sales from 63 per cent to 70 per cent and allow scope for restructuring.

"In short, we're buying technology, we're buying products," he said. Medeva expects to raise its profits from £28.9 million to £33 million in the six months to June 30 and expects to declare an interim dividend of 1.65p a share, up from 1.40p last time.

He declined to comment on whether any existing jobs would be cut in the US, where the company already employs 1,000 staff. Medeva is to take on another 220 employees with the purchase of Rochester. Mr Bogie added that the group expected to make a £65 million charge against current-year profits for restructuring.

The acquisitions will be part-funded by a conditional offering of 49.4 million new Medeva shares at 220p to raise £108.7 million with the balance being met from Medeva's existing cash balances and borrowing facilities.

## Low-profile but proud, Siebe seeks businesses to plug into

OUTLOOK/Pauline Springett on the fortunes of the electronics company

**I**T IS one of Windsor's lesser known residents. But, unlike its royal neighbours, Siebe appears to have few financial worries — unless you count the dilemma over how to spend its next £100 million.

The low public profile of one of Britain's leading electronics and engineering companies is mainly attributable to the products it makes — temperature and appliance controls for large industrial plants do not tend to make household names.

It is also because 83.1 per cent of its sales are outside the UK, nearly half in North America.

Yesterday, Siebe found itself enjoying the City's affections as it unveiled a better-than-expected set of results. Chief executive Allen Yurko declared he was very proud of the figures and said that the company was on course for another good year.

For Siebe watchers, the main interest centres on the company's acquisition strategy. Short of announcing what it has its eye on, Siebe is refreshingly forthcoming about its plans. It wants to get bigger, which means it will buy more companies.

Simple really, especially when you are generating the sort of cash Siebe does.

A quick glance over the past year shows that Siebe has not been idle in the acquisitions department. The five companies it bought in the financial year to the beginning of April cost around £100 million. They were in various parts of the world, from Brazil to Australia, reflecting Siebe's increasingly global ambitions.

The big buy was the subsequent acquisition of its rival, Unitech. In March Siebe spent £103.1 million on 25 per cent of Unitech.

It is acquiring the balance by offering Siebe shares in exchange. The total cost of the acquisition will be £500 million.

Even by Siebe's increasingly exalted standards, that makes the Unitech purchase a big deal and it is going to take Mr Yurko a little longer than the 30 days he has had so far to digest what he has bought.

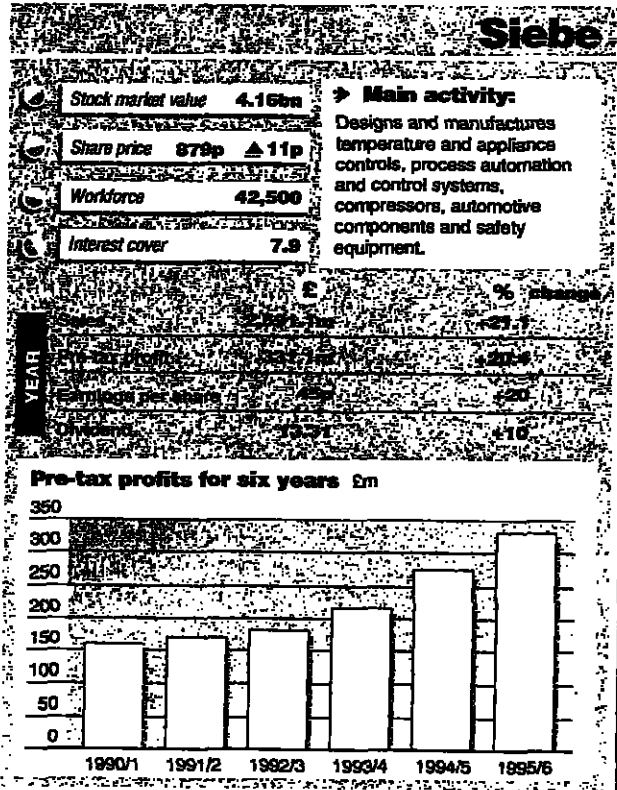
His message to the City was not to panic. Siebe has uncovered no nasty surprises at Unitech and it is determined that it will not dilute earnings when its performance is added into the parent company's figures at the next reporting stage.

Mr Yurko acknowledged that Unitech's semiconductor equipment market had shown signs of faltering with the growth of Far Eastern markets apparently slowing. But he said that Unitech and Siebe were already reaping the benefits of being able to sell to each other's markets.

So what is next on Mr Yurko's shopping list? The targets are, he said, likely to be in the £25 million — £50 million range, bringing the total spending for this year, excluding Unitech, to around £100 million. But he insisted that Siebe was not about to become an impulse shopper.

He said: "They (the purchases) will have to fit. They will really have to bring something to the party. We don't have to do anything."

Mr Yurko was at pains, indeed, to stress that the party was already going with a



swing, as he rattled off a string of statistics for the various divisions — sales, profits before tax, organic growth — most of which showed tidy rises.

There was the merest hint of anxiety over the margins. Overall, there was a 14.3 per cent margin, compared to last year's figure of 14.4 per cent. But, Mr Yurko said, acquisitions had the tendency to depress the overall margins slightly.

He said it generally took three to four years for Siebe to pull the margins of a new purchase up to the company standard of 14 per cent.

Mr Yurko stressed that two

of its five divisions — compressed air and mechanical engineering — were already showing signs of rebounding nicely, while the other three — control systems, temperature and appliance controls, and north safety products, were holding their own.

Although Siebe gave itself a very public pat on the back for its performance, its management did acknowledge that part of the reason for its optimism about the current year was that it is looking for a 10 per cent rise in sales — was being set up as an independent commercial company at the local level.

## \$1bn firm to fund phones for poor

It's good to talk for gross national product. Nicholas Bannister reports

**A** SMALL group of financial institutions, including NatWest, is investing in a company which will raise more than \$1 billion (£670 million) to fund telecom projects in developing countries.

WorldTel plans to encourage the building of telecom networks in areas where big commercial operators have been reluctant to invest.

Sam Pitroda, the Indian-born, self-made telecom millionaire who chairs WorldTel, said it would invest only in projects involving more than one million new phone lines, and that the technology was likely to be digital and wireless-based.

WorldTel is the brainchild of the International Telecommunications Union, the United Nations body which has 135 countries and more than 400 telecom companies as members. It is being set up as an independent commercial company

with no ties to any particular firm, and with the aim of delivering a commercial return to investors of between 20 and 25 per cent.

Institutions including NatWest, GE Capital, American International Group and three Kuwaiti financial groups have agreed to invest \$10 million seed capital in WorldTel.

Mr Pitroda said the first three projects should be identified within the next six months, with the fund-raising starting in the first quarter of 1997.

He said there were about 650 million phone lines in the world, 85 per cent of them in advanced countries, and more than four billion people without phones. The number of lines was expected to double over the next 10 years. WorldTel hoped to help fund the creation of up to 50 million new lines.

Many of these would be in rural areas and would include village or community phones. A single phone, he said, added about \$2,000 to GNP in countries with per capita GNP of about \$1,000.

WorldTel will help design the projects, bringing in appropriate operators and equipment manufacturers at the local level.

## The CO-OPERATIVE BANK

# BASE RATE CHANGE

With effect from Friday 7th June 1996, Co-operative Bank Base Rate changes from 6.0% p.a. to 5.75% p.a.

THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK PLC. PART OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

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## Trafalgar accuses rival of industrial espionage

Dan Atkinson

**P**OLICE may be asked to investigate allegations of industrial espionage made by the Trafalgar House conglomerate against Austrian civil engineering group Voest Alpine Industrieanlagenbau.

Trafalgar last week executed civil search warrants against VAI's offices in Poole and claims to have recovered computer discs and thousands of documents containing information stolen from Davy International, Trafalgar's process-plant subsidiary.

The so-called Anton Pillar orders were used also to search the homes of VAI UK managing director Roy Tazzyman and Graham Howe, a sales and marketing employee currently serving out his notice at Davy. The

houses raided were in the Poole area, as is the Davy office at which Mr Howe is working. Mr Tazzyman was, until September, chief executive of Davy International, but left in the wake of mounting losses. He was subsequently recruited by VAI UK.

Trafalgar, now owned by Norwegian shipbuilder and engineer Kvaerner, said yesterday it has begun civil proceedings in the High Court against VAI UK, Mr Tazzyman and Mr and Mrs Graham Howe. Mrs Howe has never been a Davy employee.

Asked if criminal proceedings were likely, Trafalgar would say only that it was "pursuing other avenues". A spokesman added that the loss of sensitive commercial material to VAI had harmed Davy's ability to compete for contracts.

## informative:

First Direct Base Rate  
With effect from 6 June 1996, First Direct Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 5.75%

HomeOwner Reserve  
With effect from 6 June 1996, the HomeOwner Reserve rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 12.00% p.a. (APR 12.4%)

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. Member HSBC Group

**MIDLAND**

NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

## NEW INTEREST RATE

With effect from 6th June 1996  
our Base Rate has been reduced by 0.25% to 5.75% p.a.

Midland Bank plc

**The Listening Bank**

Member HSBC Group

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Racing

Lady Carla to ring up Oaks victory

Ron Cox expects Pat Eddery to initiate a classic weekend double for Henry Cecil

LADY CARLA can answer Pat Eddery's call for the Vodafone Oaks at Epsom today to set up a classic weekend double for trainer Henry Cecil, who is strongly represented in tomorrow's Derby with Dushyantor, the antipast favourite, Storm Trooper and Clever Cliche.

In 1988 Cecil did the Epsom 1-2 with Oh So Sharp and Slip Anchor. Though he might not admit it publicly, victory with Lady Carla would be doubly satisfying for Cecil as it would mean foiling an Oaks hat-trick for the Godolphin team, who field the hot favourite Pricket.

Last year Cecil saw Moonshell, a filly he had trained as a two-year-old, win the Oaks in the Godolphin livery. Subsequent events led to a split with Sheikh Mohammed altogether, but it is typical of Cecil that he has bounced back with strong hand for this year's Classics.

Lady Carla has not been seriously tested in winning both her races to date. She broke the two-year-old track record at Leicester last year and made all in the Lingfield Oaks Trial, thereby gaining valuable experience of a course not unlike Epsom.

Pricket, trained last season by Cecil and a full sister to the stable's 1988 Oaks winner Diminundo, has dominated the betting ever since her emphatic five lengths victory at Newmarket.

She certainly looked the part there, but the form has not worked out. Cecil's Magnificent Style, who was placed for the Oaks only to be pulled out yesterday owing to the fastish ground, did win at York after trailing in third behind Pricket.

But there were valid reasons for Magnificent Style's defeat. Take her out of the equation, and Pricket beat little of note. She could be a fine price.

Bint Salsabil, a Nashwan daughter of the 1990 Oaks winner Salsabil, appears not to have inherited her parents' stamina. I am prepared to see her run a better race than in the 1,000 Guineas, where she finished two places behind the staying-on Honest Guest, but she has plenty to prove.

Overnight thunderstorms and any easing in the ground would put Camporese in the picture. She clocked an outstanding time when winning by nine lengths first time out at Haydock on good to soft.

Michael Stoute has saddled a winner (Unite) and five placed horses in the last 10 runnings of the Oaks. His runner today, Whitewater Affair, has been supplemented at a cost of £15,000 and cannot be lightly dismissed.

But she seemed very suited by soft ground at Goodwood last time and may find it hard to keep up with Lady Carla (4.05) once Eddery says so.

Stoute had to accept defeat with Dr Massini yesterday, and the colt was taken out of the Derby after succumbing to another bout of lameness. He is expected to recover in time for a tilt at the Irish Derby at the end of the month.

Dr Massini's intended jockey, Michael Kinane, switches to the Cecil-trained Storm Trooper, leaving luckless stable jockey Willie Ryan without a ride. Ryan has also been overlooked for Cecil's other Derby runner, Clever Cliche, who will be partnered by Richard Hughes.

Double Leaf, stable companion of Dr Massini, will be ridden by the Irish champion Johnny Murtagh, who replaces the injured Ray Cochrane.

In a welcome contrast to reports of injured jockeys and horses, Mark Tompkins issued an optimistic bulletin about Even Top, who worked well yesterday morning and is on course for Epsom.

Pricket has been strongly supported to give Godolphin their third successive Oaks victory

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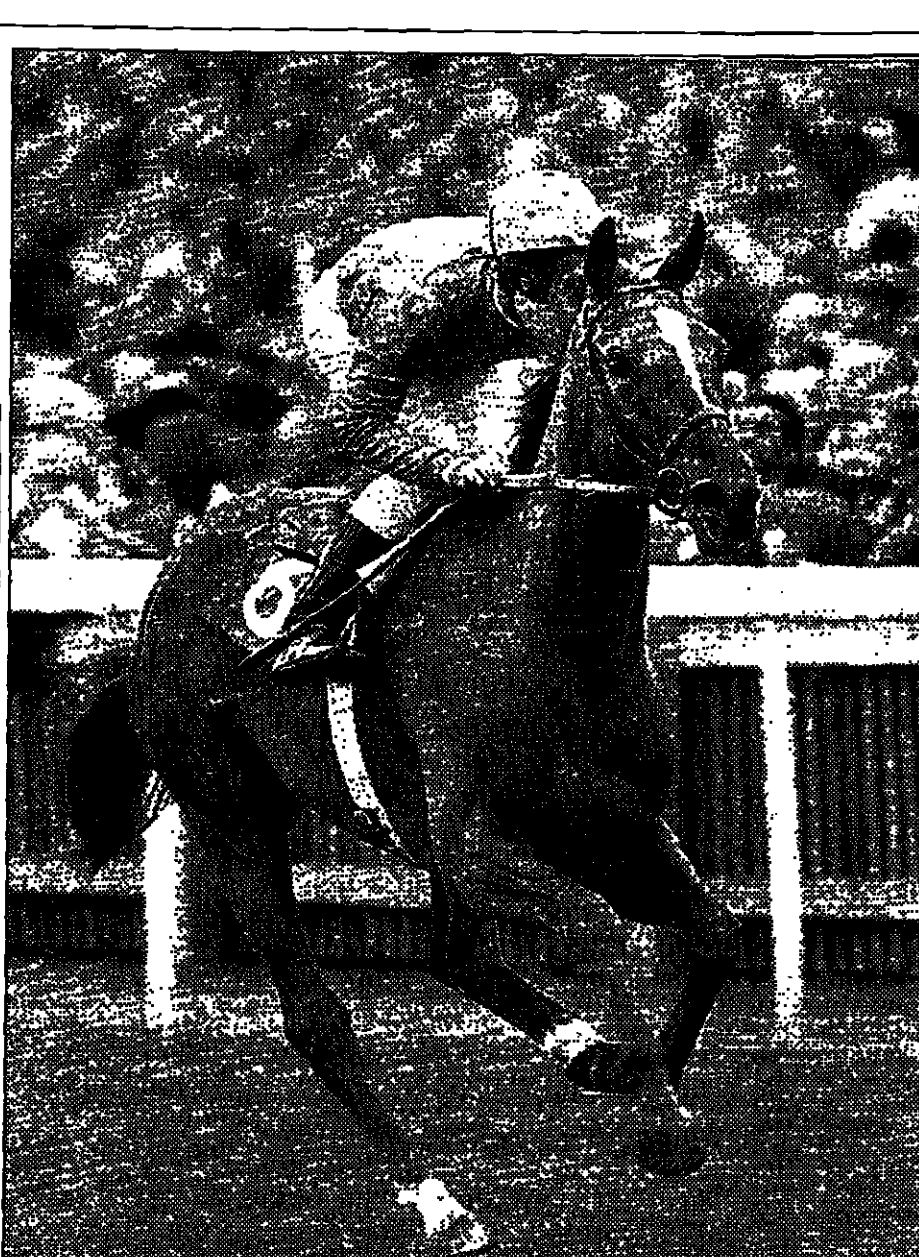
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Hot favourite... Pricket has been strongly supported to give Godolphin their third successive Oaks victory

SPORTS NEWS 13

Big race field Chan 4

Table listing race details for Channel 4, including race number, name, time, and participants.

Rest of Epsom card

Table listing the rest of the Epsom racing card, including race details and participants.

Goodwood tonight

Table listing Goodwood racing results for the night of June 7, 1996.

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'Non-runner' wins at 5-1

LIONEL EDWARDS announced a "doubtful" runner for the Paul Cole stable on Wednesday night, made it to Goodwood races after all to land yesterday's Albert Auction Stakes at 5-1.

After the three-year-old was found to be lame connections indicated he would not take part in the seven-furlong event. But he had recovered by morning and Cole decided he could take his chance.

Perth National Hunt runners

Table listing Perth National Hunt runners and their details.

Results

Table listing racing results from various tracks, including Goodwood, Catterick, and Haydock.

Advertisement for 'ticket' featuring a horse and rider, with text 'OS: Who beat Germany 9-0 in 1909?' and 'AS: England'.

Advertisement for 'RACELINE' featuring a horse and rider, with text 'EPSON CATERICK PERTH GOODWOOD HAYDOCK IRISH' and '0930 1684'.



1 Te St

# England await Pearce dividend

# Heavy burden for Bergkamp

David Davies at Bisham Abbey

It is a massive honour. Even if it means turning up for a game and sitting in the stand, you're still representing your country.

Or sitting in a bar having a few drinks before flying home club class. Pearce, needless to say, was not a member of England's Intemperance Seven in Hong Kong.

"We're all professionals," he pointed out. "We should all be actually aware of our job, which is to go out and play to the best of our ability."

Pearce believes England can win the European Championship, and that is not mere patriotism speaking. "We haven't been in the semi-finals since 1990," he said, "but in the end we got through our group, and the more we went on the more our momentum grew."

Robson's team went out of last World Cup to West Germany on penalties in the Turin semi-final. Pearce's kick was saved by Ilgner's reflexes before Chris Waddle lifted England's next over the bar. "That was part and parcel of the job," he shrugged yesterday. "You're going to make mistakes and miss penalties. I'd be more than happy to take another in a shoot-out this time if I'm asked."

England's last European Championship is generally regarded as a debacle, but Pearce feels that if his free-kick against France late in the second, goalless game had gone in after hitting the underside of the bar, instead of bouncing out, things would have been different. "We'd have been in the semi-finals and again, the momentum would have grown."

In that match Boli, the tough French defender, butted Pearce, who needed three stitches in a gashed cheek. "A present from Mr Boli was how Taylor described it. This time Mr Boli is not around to distribute his largesse."

If Euro 96 continues the theme of the 1994 World Cup the referees will only allow the sort of tough tackling in which Pearce specialises. If the challenges are made from the front, variables in favour of this provided the Spanish official in charge at Wembley tomorrow does not look for an early sacrificial lamb.

Certainly if Paul Gascoigne blows a fuse, Pearce will be a handy man to have around. Switzerland may give Sebastian Jenster, 22, a surprise place in defence tomorrow with Marc Hottiger and Raphael Wicky suspended.

lan Malin finds the Dutch in confident but diplomatic form at their St Albans HQ

COLLECTIVE responsibility may be England's vogue phrase and it slipped from the lips of Dennis Bergkamp yesterday as Holland, the favourites to win Group A, gathered at their headquarters in the cathedral city of St Albans.

But the Arsenal striker, at 27 something of a senior pro in this young Dutch side, was not hiding behind the words after any high jinks on the squad's flight from Amsterdam to Luton; Bergkamp is not keen on flying and travelled to Hertfordshire via Eurostar.

The suspension of Danny Blind means Bergkamp will captain Holland in their opening game against Scotland at Villa Park on Monday afternoon. "We've strong collective responsibility; there'll be 11 leaders in our side," he said, sipping nothing stronger than a mineral water.

"We are a younger side than in 1992 but there's a lot of quality in the team. That's not to say Scotland will be easy. They also are a different team from the one we played four years ago and they'll be hard to beat."

The man named after Denis Law has happy memories of the Scots, against whom he scored the only goal in Scotland's 1988 European Championship. But not everything has gone his way in the orange shirt of late; before Tuesday, when he scored in the 3-1 defeat of the Republic of Ireland in Rotterdam, he



Tangled trio... Ince, centre, and Southgate, right, tussle as Anderton looks on at Bisham Abbey yesterday

had gone over a year without a goal for the Dutch.

Bergkamp expects to play a more forward part on Monday should Patrick Kluyvert not recover from the knee injury that has prevented him playing a full game for Ajax since April 13.

"We're still drawing fluid from the knee after every training session," said Holland's coach Guus Hiddink. "We have to be careful. There are still many doubts about Patrick. Frank de Boer is out of the tournament and now Hoekstra and Ronald de Boer are also doubtful. They and Kluyvert are the backbone of our team."

The loss of Blind and Frank de Boer means the experienced Roderic JC defender, Johan de Kock, will face the Scots. Frank de Boer will miss a team bonus deal worth about £17,000 should Holland win the tournament.

As ever, the players know how to flex their muscles in Holland. Hiddink has had his critics back home and last year faced a players' boycott when seven of his Ajax stars refused to appear in a friendly against Portugal in protest against playing too many matches.

Not surprisingly, Hiddink was playing down his side's chances yesterday. Deadpan at the best of times, he was asked about England, their Group A opponents at Wembley on Tuesday week. "They will be very competitive and in front of their own supporters, sure, they are one of the favourites," he answered diplomatically.

And who would be his most difficult opponents? "Scotland," he said, to Dutch and English guffaws. Like every manager, he is taking each game as it comes.

SUNDERLAND snap up Rae

PETER REID celebrated signing a new three-year contract yesterday by agreeing a fee of around £750,000 with Millwall for their combative midfielder Alex Rae.

Reid was meeting the former Scottish Under-21 international last night with Sunderland confident they would resolve "one or two minor snags". Reid said: "He is a player I've tracked since my days at Manchester City. He's an attacking midfielder player who can get goals."

Paul Parker is poised to become Jim Smith's latest

recruit at Derby by leaving Manchester United for the Premiership newcomers over the weekend.

The 32-year-old former England defender is a free agent after his contract at Old Trafford expired last month.

Oxford's manager Denis Smith has made a £1 million offer for the Bristol Rovers striker Marcus Stewart. Smith has joined three Premiership clubs - Southampton, West Ham and Tottenham - in the hunt for 22-year-old Stewart, who recently rejected a new contract with Rovers.

The Olde Brewery Spring

Fuggles A Brand NEW Gold Fashioned Ale

There's probably one somewhere around the Fuggles Brewery. But you've found it yet.

## Golf Monty mugged by rough

David Davies at Forest in Arden

COLIN Montgomerie, nine shots behind the leader Andrew Oldcorn, firmly believes he can still win the Alamo English Open.

"All it needs," he said after yesterday's opening 75, "is a bit of luck. I'm hoping and expecting something in the mid-sixties in the second round."

Montgomerie, an advisor to the owners, found that the course he had helped set up had turned on him. After deconstructing US Open-style rough, he found he could not get out of it. "In six attempts to get up and down, I dropped seven shots," he said. That is the equivalent of being mugged by your own bodyguard.

Now he is helped by deteriorating greens that made it difficult to retrieve errors with good putting. It was significant that Oldcorn, out

## Faldo suffers problems with his swing while driving the Buick

David Henderson in Harrison, New York

NICK FALDO was in a genuine dilemma after beginning the countdown to the US Open next week with a laborious 71 yesterday in the Buick Classic here at Westchester.

The Masters champion, in his final tournament before moving next week to Oakland Hills in Detroit, was bewildered that a swing previously so sweet could turn so sour.

With little wind and warm sunshine Faldo expected to make an early run at the title, but only on the final two holes did he find his rhythm. He mustered two birdies from the 6,779-yard course and was relieved to match par.

"I hit a lot of bad shots and didn't get it close to the hole all day," he said. "I have a lot of work to do before I even think about the US Open."

## Hockey Garcia spot on as Britain beat Germany

Paul Rowley

GREAT BRITAIN rekindled the spirit of 1988 by defeating the Germans yesterday for the first time since the Olympic final in Seoul. Russell Garcia secured a 2-1 win in Bad Nauheim with two penalties.

A rare victory over the Olympic champions could not have been better timed and it provided an early success for the new coaches John Copp and James Duthie.

Britain, who recently lost to Germany in Milton Keynes, won despite falling a goal behind, Stefan Saliger tapping in at the far post in the fourth minute.

Britain were level by the 12th minute when Takker was fouled by Carsten Fischer and Garcia beat the goalkeeper to his right from the spot.

Germany missed several chances, but Garcia, shooting high this time, put Britain in front right on half-time after Takker was again fouled.

## Results

**Rugby Union**

**HENRIK EUROPEAN CUP:** Qualifying group, first leg: Dinamo Bucharest 15, Brestanov 27

**Golf**

**ENGLISH OPEN** (Forest of Arden, Warwickshire). First round (54 holes unless stated): 66 A Oldcorn, 67 P Alcock, 68 C Hall, 69 R Aitken, 70 J Townsend (US); 71 P McGinley, 72 Goggin (Garr); 73 Williams, 74 R Burro, 75 M Farlane, 76 D Williams, 77 P Mitchell, 78 P Fyfe, 79 S Barber, 80 P Sargent, 81 J Sheehan, 82 D Cooper, 83 D Davies, 84 P Fidler, 85 M A Hain, 86 D Hoopland, 87 J Johnson, 88 S Timmer, 89 M Bevan, 90 J Wilson, 91 J Clarke, 92 P Baker, 93 M Campbell, 94 J Russell, 95 G Ross, 96 H Horwood, 97 M Paddy, 98 S Givaud, 99 T S Webster, M Welch, P-J Johnson, 100 J Johnson, 101 J Johnson, 102 J Johnson, 103 J Johnson, 104 J Johnson, 105 J Johnson, 106 J Johnson, 107 J Johnson, 108 J Johnson, 109 J Johnson, 110 J Johnson, 111 J Johnson, 112 J Johnson, 113 J Johnson, 114 J Johnson, 115 J Johnson, 116 J Johnson, 117 J Johnson, 118 J Johnson, 119 J Johnson, 120 J Johnson, 121 J Johnson, 122 J Johnson, 123 J Johnson, 124 J Johnson, 125 J Johnson, 126 J Johnson, 127 J Johnson, 128 J Johnson, 129 J Johnson, 130 J Johnson, 131 J 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Tennis

Novotna cracks on baked clay

Stephen Blarney in Paris

THE Roland Garros faithful have been denied the women's final they so badly wanted. Steffi Graf beat Jana Novotna...

anything. She just runs around the court and gets the ball back. Novotna said afterwards: "She's always waiting for somebody's mistakes..."

Trouble courts Capriati again

JENNIFER CAPRIATI is in trouble again. A complaint of assault and battery has been made against the 20-year-old former prodigy...

to give Graf a tough fight. She recently won the Italian Open in Rome and had maintained her good form here...

They also met in the 1989 final when the Spaniard memorably chalked up her first Grand Slam win. Statistics never tell the whole tale but remarkably this will be Graf's 28th Grand Slam final...



Face facts... Jana Novotna shows the strain on her way to a straight-sets semi-final defeat by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

Rugby League Super League set back

Paul Fitzpatrick

IT SEEMS certain that Super League will not get underway in Australia this season after a court in Sydney yesterday deferred a decision on Rupert Murdoch's appeal against a judgment ordering the setting up of the competition until 2000.

The three federal court judges who heard eight days of evidence are not expected to make their ruling for at least two months, by which time the current Australian - and European - seasons will be drawing to a close.

County Championship Leicestershire v Kent

Sanford expert, Simmons exotic

Paul Weaver at Leicester

EDWARD STANFORD, that most English-sounding of cricketers, is Min Patel's replacement in the Kent side. He is probably qualified to play Test cricket for India.

ous innings had brought him 25, 51, 143 not out and 58. This time he scored 82 from 75 balls with 15 fours and a six. There were seven boundaries in his first 33 runs and 10 in his half-century.

Somerset v Warwickshire

Caddick pounds away but Penney turns heads

David Foot at Taunton

THAT single-minded pre-war Somerset captain John Daniel never, on principle, put the opposition in after winning the toss. It was not even considered an option...

Essex v Lancashire

Elevated Grayson does his best

Andy Wilson at Chelmsford

IT was not a good day for Peter Martin, but it could have been much worse. Surprisingly left out of England's 11 for Edgbaston, he was spared the unpleasant task of bowling at a rampant Essex batting line-up...

will be risk playing the first session without one of their recognised batsmen, rather than with only two seam bowlers. Sure enough they lost the toss, Essex batted and Gooch forced them to turn to Martin's replacement as third seamer, Ian Austin, by the 10th over, when Crawley was still on the motorway.

Rugby Union Wales turn to Williams

Wales turn to Williams

Steve Williams, the Welsh No. 10, has won a place in the Wales team to face Australia in the first Test at Ballymore tomorrow.

There is bad news, too, for the Salford and Wales captain David Young, who damaged ankle ligaments in the international at Carcassonne on Wednesday. Young, who returns to rugby union in September, could miss the remainder of the season.

Vaughan valiant as Surrey debutant tackles Yorkshire

THE 18-year-old Surrey seamer Ben Hollis made his first-class debut with an impressive performance against Middlesex.

crucial blow when he deceived Bevan, who mistimed a pull to be comfortably caught at mid-on. Vaughan eventually departed to a casual stroke outside the off-stump off Joey Benjamin to offer a straightforward slip catch, and the last four wickets produced only 35.

Essex v Lancashire

Essex v Lancashire: Chelmsford (40) have scored 448 so far in their first innings against Lancashire (20).

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EURO 96 FOOTBALL COMES HOME. 099 099 1996



England's rock of ages, page 14

Dennis lays down the law, page 14

No more glory for Novotna, page 15

Another setback for Murdoch, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## INDIA'S PROFLIGATE BATSMEN CRUMBLE TO CORK

England v India: First Test, first day

# England's opportunity knocks

Mike Selvey at Edgbaston

**B**OWLING that was functional but flattered by dismal Indian batting and catching that, with one glaring early exception, was efficient and at times spectacular put England in charge of a Test match for the first time since the eventual wash-out at Centurion Park seven months ago in South Africa. The pitch, though not strictly true nor even-bounced, was by no means unnerveing, but India batted so poorly that they were dismissed inside 70 overs for 214.

**INDIA**

1. Prasad	18
2. Tendulkar	10
3. Gavaskar	10
4. Kulkarni	10
5. Kambli	10
6. Atherton	10
7. Srinath	10
8. Mankar	10
9. Mongia	10
10. Tendulkar	10
11. Prasad	10
12. Tendulkar	10
13. Gavaskar	10
14. Kulkarni	10
15. Kambli	10
16. Atherton	10
17. Srinath	10
18. Mankar	10
19. Mongia	10
20. Tendulkar	10
21. Prasad	10
22. Tendulkar	10
23. Gavaskar	10
24. Kulkarni	10
25. Kambli	10
26. Atherton	10
27. Srinath	10
28. Mankar	10
29. Mongia	10
30. Tendulkar	10
31. Prasad	10
32. Tendulkar	10
33. Gavaskar	10
34. Kulkarni	10
35. Kambli	10
36. Atherton	10
37. Srinath	10
38. Mankar	10
39. Mongia	10
40. Tendulkar	10
41. Prasad	10
42. Tendulkar	10
43. Gavaskar	10
44. Kulkarni	10
45. Kambli	10
46. Atherton	10
47. Srinath	10
48. Mankar	10
49. Mongia	10
50. Tendulkar	10



Kumble tumbles... Atherton snaps up India's No. 8 in the gully to give Cork the third of his four wickets

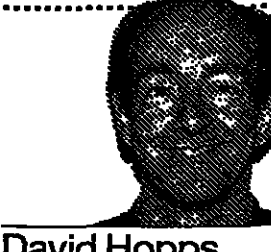
All the England seamers took wickets: four going, inevitably, to Dominic Cork, three to Alan Mullally after a 10-over wait for his first, a pair to Chris Lewis and one to Ronnie Irani from his fifth ball. Min Patel, the third England debutant, after Peter Martin and John Crawley were omitted from the original 13, bowled just two overs when the tail was becoming irksome. He will hope for more work second time around on a wearing pitch. In the 19 overs England were required to bat in the evening sunlight. India missed a chance to run out the captain before he had scored, and by the close Mike Atherton (31) and Nick Knight (27) had played fluently in gathering 60 without being separated. Having won a good toss, India were awfully. They were pressurised certainly, but contributed to their own

downfall with a spate of rash strokes and a lack of the sort of application that helps build Test innings. Rathore, Mankar — troubled by an ankle injury that interrupted his innings — Tendulkar, Mongia and the two tallenders, Srinath and Mhambrey, all moved into the twenties, but only Srinath, at No. 9, went beyond. He hit nine boundaries and top-scored with 32; you could have got pre-match odds of 100-1 on that happening. In the process he shared the highest stand, 53 for the penultimate wicket, with Mhambrey, whose 38 was the second-top score. The smell of burning effigies may have been lingering in the Indian air this morning. But it is hard to blame the Indian players out of hand. In the pursuit of one-day cricket and the revenue it brings to their board, they have played just three Tests, against New Zealand, in 18 months as against 34 one-day internationals. So injured have they all become to the short game that, at 142 for seven after 50 overs yesterday, it was a surprise that Joshi and Srinath did not tuck their bats under their arms and march off. Collectively, Test batsmen

have forgotten how to play Test innings. Strokes angled to third-man bring runs in limited-overs matches. In Tests, with slip cordon, they spell disaster. An hour in a one-day international can transform a match: in Tests that barely sees off the shine. To their credit, England were in no mood to let such an opportunity slip. After Nasser Hussain, a crack fielder, had made a hash of a simple catch at cover-point with the game barely under way, the bowlers chipped away, backed by attacking, thoughtful fields. There was some glorious

returned later to remove Kumble and cleaned up the last man, Prasad, with the first ball of yet another spell. Mullally and Lewis lent the attack variety, with Lewis, on his return, given the first over — a good psychological move — and taking the first wicket. The occasional ball smacked into Jack Russell's gloves and he kept a steady line. The trick will be to turn his fiery deliveries into fiery overs. Mullally benefitted largely from the generosity of Mongia, Joshi and Srinath for his wickets. He can savour the day, and deservedly so, but only in the sure knowledge that they will come harder in future. It has been assumed that it

## Tendulkar is tried but not fully Tested



David Hopps

**I**N INDIA he was called Sachin The Unbowable. It became a simple matter of faith, as the child on a first visit to a fairground believes absolutely in The World's Strongest Man. Yet today India must realise that they are risking the fulfilment of an outstanding sportsman. As with the fairground strongman, Sachin Tendulkar's reputation has been a strange mix of illusion and reality. When Dominic Cork left his off-stump played yesterday it was the eighth time he had been bowled in Tests, but that hardly seemed to matter as he built a reputation as the world's most dependable batsman. Every Tendulkar innings used to be measured in India like the Egyptians once rated their wine — either "good", "good good" or "good good good". But India, a land where anything of any worth is normally treasured, has been careless of its wondrous talent. Tendulkar has played so little Test cricket recently that until yesterday he had scored fewer runs in the last 18 months than Devon Malcolm. It is also a fair bet that he had scored them less exhilaratingly, lacking Malcolm's penchant for the full-blooded myopic whirl. Short-sightedness is assuredly a charge that can be levelled against the Indian cricket authorities as they have become so obsessed with the candy-floss culture of one-day cricket that Test cricket has been virtually overlooked. Tendulkar has played three Tests (and four innings) in the same period that England's Michael Atherton and Australia's Mark Waugh have played 15.

would take something special to dismiss Tendulkar this summer, something a few scales above the commonplace delivery from Cork that flew between bat and pad as the batsman sought his favourite leg-side shot. Chris Cairns's slower ball wreaked similar havoc in his previous Test in Chandigarh. He has excused a growing tendency to play across the line by referring to "floating technique" but it would be a pity if circumstances turned it into a sinking one. The only satisfactory solution has been advocated before: an official league table for Test cricket, drawn up perhaps over a four-year period, which would assign team duty bound to fulfil so many fixtures against the other eight Test nations. Much has been made of its fairness to emerging teams such as Sri Lanka, but Tendulkar's fate reminds us that individuals have also been poorly treated. He is capable of surpassing Gavaskar as India's most prolific Test batsman of all time — though one would not bet on it as he has barely had a chance to reach 2,500 runs. IF YOU feel the urge for a flutter, you can bet on almost anything these days. Ladbrokes' offer of 100-1 against Javagal Srinath becoming India's top scorer — which seemed a mug's bet if ever there was one — had caused a few rueful shakes of the head by mid-afternoon. The most whimsical bet, though, has been dreamed up by Sporting Index, a spread-betting firm. They have devised the "Mike Atherton Dot-Ball Index", a calculation of how many balls the England captain will face during the series without scoring. They set the range between 300 and 385 and most bets have forecast that the figure will be higher. Perhaps this illustrates the conviction that Atherton will make a stack of runs. Otherwise the vision of Atherton endlessly patting the ball back down the wicket in the cause of duty is yet another indicator of our mutual pessimism. Here we are again, another Great British Summer of Sport. The Epsom Derby and Wimbledon are round the corner. Faldo is prowling the greens and a bulky plethora of Euro 96 supplements is straining the backs of every paperboy and girl in the land. And the English cricketing public is eagerly calculating how many times nothing much will happen when an Indian bowls to Michael Atherton. No wonder the Americans are mystified by the whole thing.

## Swiss are going blind into their Wembley opener

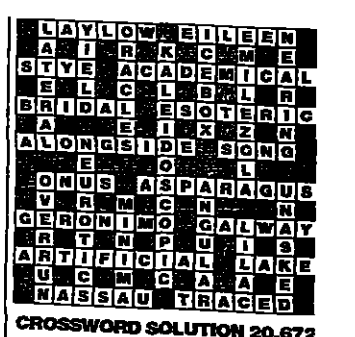
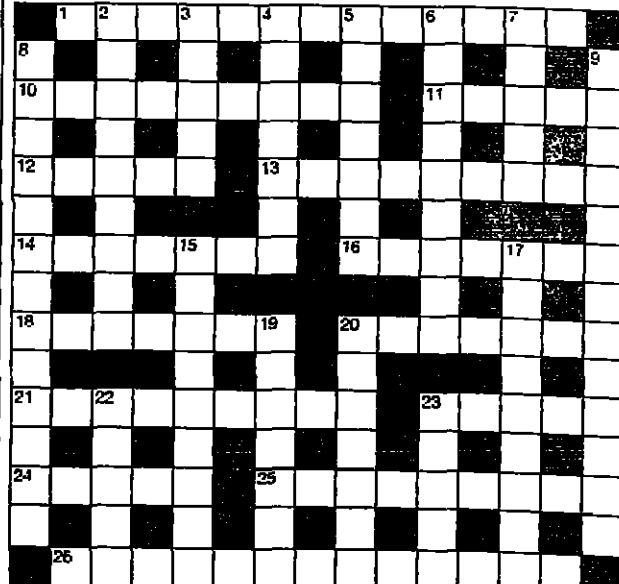
**S**WITZERLAND, long shots for Euro 96, will go blindly into the opener with England tomorrow after rejecting the chance to train at Wembley, writes Russell Thomas. Artur Jorge, Switzerland's manager, was infuriated that his squad could

not work out at Wembley yesterday and rejected the FA's invitation to train there this afternoon. "We will not bother now," said Jorge. "It would take up to four hours to travel to Wembley and back from our hotel and that is too much on the day before a game." "The pitch at Wembley, with the thick grass which slows the ball, is unique and it would have been helpful to go there beforehand. We are not happy about the situation but many of the Swiss players already know the pitch

from November and we will cope." England won 3-1 then. Now, warns Jorge, the pressure on the hosts is so much greater. "All the expectation will be on them and I think they may fear something like a national revolution if they don't win."

## Guardian Crossword No 20,673

Set by Custos



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,673

- Across**
- 1 A bath splashing toes, flowing out where fat is contained (7,8)
  - 10 It's a blow, and not something to celebrate (3-6)
  - 11 The Yorkshireman's remnant may win a trick (5)
  - 12 Expression of dissatisfaction and dependency at hospital (5)
  - 13 King and Queen, say, or three cards of the same denomination (4-5)
  - 14 Plant with ire exploding? Discipline once more needed (7)
  - 16 Style of tansure makes draught start to circulate in shack (7)
  - 18 Extensive cloud begins to travel westward around Uruguay (7)
  - 20 A small number is clear of all charges, but getting back strain (7)
  - 21 Greek god fibbed about work, dressed in full armour (9)
  - 23 A sporty rubber disc, we hear, one that's durable in Bombay? (5)
  - 24 Sort of anaesthetic supplied by the pub (5)
  - 25 Cancel a booking? That shows lack of restraint (3)
  - 26 Writer seemed upset by sty (4-6,3)
- Down**
- 2 Human membrane gluddering at a murder (4,5)
  - 3 Cook gets to intrude on another's preserves (5)
  - 4 Position among those voting against turning up is attacked (3,4)
  - 5 On the caustic side? This is unusual about drawing, etc. (7)
  - 6 Blissfully happy, spreading run, cropped by the devil (9)

- 7 Extortion in American underground's first railway (5)
- 8 Insufficiently available, briefly, in a flexible manner (2,6,6)
- 9 Fruit not served up before a chicken? It's something in the atmosphere (8,5)
- 15 George presenting gold to religious group (9)
- 17 American squirrel a girl found sitting on a tall grass mostly (9)
- 19 Incentives may be distorted to limit us (7)
- 20 Disturbed sea I'd encountered initially in voyage (4-3)
- 22 Hot in foreign resort? That's a suitable condition in life (5)
- 23 Was an artist's model, it's asserted (5)

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# 4-WORD

WORLD'S THE FIRST AND STILL THE BEST

June 8 1996

The Euro Kick-off

BBC

Television company producing comedy programme Have I News For You faces questions on handling of cost-savings after Guardian investigation

IRA hold crucial ceasefire talks

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.